## **Legal and Public** 2010

area to be returned to its original state prior to mining Additional information about the operation may be obtained from

Ralph Marquardt (665-1053) PO Box 1040

Yankton, SD 57078

or the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Minerals and Mining Program, 523 East Capitol Avenue, Pierre, SD 57501-3182, phone (605)773-4201.

\* A resident agent is needed only if the operator is an out-of-state corporation. Contact the South Dakota Secretary of State's office at (605)773-3537 for more information.

8+28 YANKTON SCHOOL DISTRICT 63-3 PROCEEDINGS OF SPECIAL MEETING OF SCHOOL BOARD **AUGUST 22, 2013** 

As per call and notice thereof, a Special Meeting of the School Board of Yankton School District 63-3 of Yankton County, South Dakota, was held at the Administration Building, Yankton, South Dakota. on Thursday, August 22, 2013, at 12:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by President Fitzgerald with the following members present: Sarah Carda, Jim Fitzgerald, Kathy Greeneway, Matthew Pietz and Jay Williams with the following members absent: none.

#### Action No. 2014-122

Rvan Mors, Activities Director, gave a report on implementation of new/expanded training rules for student activity participants and collaboration with club sports/activities. No action was taken.

### Action No. 2014-123

Moved by Carda and seconded by Williams to utilize/require limited waivers of liability for participation in the Pioneer Days Parade with the following voting Aye: all. Motion carried.

## Action No. 2014-124

Moved by Greeneway and seconded by Pietz to move into executive session at 1:04 p.m. for contract negotiations with the following voting Aye: all. Motion

# Action No. 2014-125

Moved by Williams and seconded by Greeneway to reconvene in special session at 1:19 p.m. with the following voting Aye: all. Motion carried.

# Action No. 2014-126

Moved by Pietz and seconded by Williams to adjourn the meeting at 1:19 p.m. with the following voting Aye: all. Motion carried.

> Jim Fitzgerald, President School Board

Attest: Jason L. Bietz Business Manager

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# Squelching Sierra Fires Left Forest Ready To Burn

Yosemite

National

perimeter

Rim fire perimeter

National Forest

BY TRACIE CONE AND BRIAN **SKOLOFF** 

Associated Press

GROVELAND, Calif. — Unnaturally long intervals between wildfires and years of drought primed the Sierra Nevada for the explosive conflagration chewing up the rugged landscape on the edge of Yosemite National Park,

forestry experts say. The fire had ravaged 282 square miles by Tuesday, the biggest in the Sierra's recorded history and one of the largest on record in California.

Containment increased to 20 percent but the number of destroyed structures rose to 101 and some 4,500 structures remained threatened. The types of lost buildings were not specified. Firefighters were making stands at Tuolumne City and other mountain com-

The blaze was just 40 acres when it was discovered near a road in Stanislaus National Forest on Aug. 17, but firefighters had no chance of stopping it in the early days.

Fueled by thick forest floor vegetation in steep river canyons, it exploded to 10,000 acres 36 hours later, then to 54,000 acres and 105,620 acres within the next two days. On its 11th day it had surpassed 179,400 acres, becoming the seventh-largest California wildfire in records dating to 1932.

Inferno in Yosemite

The Rim fire, one of the largest in California history, has burned at least 150,000 acres, or about 230 sq. mi. (596 sq. km).

How big is the fire? Shown below is the Rim fire



Source: California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, GeoMAC, U.S. Forest Service ∂raphic: Los Angeles Times

Federal forest ecologists say that historic policies of fire suppression to protect Sierra timber interests left a century's worth of fuel in the fire's path.

"That's called making the woodpile bigger," said Hugh Safford, an ecologist with the U.S. Forest Service in Califor-

Two years of drought and a constant slow warming across the Sierra Nevada also worked to turn the Rim Fire into an inferno. For years forest ecologists have warned that Western wildfires will only get worse. "Every year the summer

temperatures are a little warmer, hence the conditions for burning are a little more auspicious," said Safford. "People can deny it all they want but it's happening. Every year the fuels are a little bit drier."

The Rim Fire's exponential growth slowed only after hitting areas that had burned in the past two decades, and Safford says that shows the utility of prescribed and natural burns that clear brush and

© 2013 MCT allow wildfires to move rapidly

Cherry

without killing trees. 'If you look at the Sierra Nevada as a whole, by far the largest portion hasn't seen a fire since the 1910s and 1920s, which is very unnatural," said Safford, who has authored several papers on the increasing wildlife severity across California's mountain ranges. "This one isn't stopping for a while.'

Since a 1988 fire impacted nearly one third of Yellowstone National Park, forestry officials have begun rethinking suppression policies. Yosemite has adopted an aggressive plan of prescribed burns while allowing backcountry fires caused by lightning strikes to burn unimpeded as long as they don't threaten park facilities.

"Yosemite is one of the biggest experimental landscapes for prescribed fire and it's going to pay off," Safford said. "The Rim Fire is starting to hit all those old fire scars.'

The 350-mile-long Sierra Nevada is a unique mountain system in the U.S. with its Mediterranean climate, which means four-to-six months of drought every summer. California's mountain flora is designed to burn and even flourish and regenerate healthier after a fast-moving fire.

Instead the Rim Fire is killing everything in its path. The understory ignites trees, and wind is sweeping the fire from treetop-to-treetop in 300foot walls of flame.

Scientists also expect the impact on wildlife to be severe. The fire has encompassed nearly the entire migratory range of deer in the region, and the burning treetops likely displaced many of the remaining 300 members of a subset of Great Gray Owl along the Yosemite border, said Daniel Applebee of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

"Because their population is so small, any loss is significant," Applebee said.

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that would meet with the requirements of the governor's office. If we can get the pieces put together, it's the kind of project we like to do and, nopefully, will end up doing.

The three buildings, which are located adjacent to each other, were chosen because of their historic and architectural characteristics, he

"There are a couple more buildings on the campus that also have that same character, but they are much smaller and not necessarily available, Foutch said. "And then there are some other buildings that are neat, but they wouldn't really work for this kind of

A \$1.87 million contract was recently awarded to Runge Enterprises of Sioux Falls to demolish 13 structures on the campus, including Ordway, Mellette and Herreid.

The Herreid Building was built in 1903 and has been vacant since 1996; the Mellette Building was built in 1905 and has been vacant since 1996; and the Ordway Building was built in 1915 and has been vacant since 1980.

"If a viable proposal is submitted (by the Foutch Brothers), those three buildings would come off the list," Deb Bowman, a senior advisor to Daugaard, recently told the *Press & Dakotan*. "If there is a possibility that someone can save those buildings and turn them into something useful and good for the community, that's great.

Foutch said the company is looking at the buildings primarily as market-rate residential space — meaning it wouldn't be subsidized — but possibly with a commercial component.

'Ît could be office space, meeting space — probably not retail space — but any kind of commercial space could be there, really. Maybe on the order of 20 percent of the space would be oriented in that direction," he stated. "On this project, as with all of our projects, we would be looking for uses that are compatible with the buildings. Most importantly, it has to be a use for which there is some kind of demand locally. We try to get in tune with the local market and figure out what is really needed. We don't like to forcefeed anything.

Foutch stated that conversations will have to be had about building residential facilities next to the state's mental health hospital.

You would have to be a fool to ignore the location, but I'm not necessarily scared of it." he said. "If the governor's office accepts our proposal and wants us to move forward, there will be some serious discussions about what expectations are on both sides of the fence. It needs to be a two-way street. I don't think it's a deal killer for either of

The rough estimate to rehabilitate the buildings is \$16-\$17 million, according to Foutch.

Typically, the Foutch Brothers do at least part of the construction work on its projects, and then owns and operates the properties once they are done.

"That's what we like to do," Foutch said. "It's kind of a turn-key operation. So far, I don't believe we've sold any of our properties.'

Jennifer Buddenborg, a

senior field officer with the National Trust for Historic Preservation who assisted with connecting the Foutch Brothers with the HSC campus, said she is excited about their interest. In 2009, the campus was listed by the National Trust as one of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places.

The Foutch Brothers are a highly reputable historic rehabilitation development firm, she stated. "You couldn't ask for a better fit than them for the rehabilitation of the historic HSC buildings. Numerous awards attest to their successes, and it would be wonderful to add the HSC to that list.
"Based on conversations

with local and state leaders, (creating residential space out of the buildings) will help address the need for more housing in the community while also complementing the robust growth of the northern reaches of the City of Yankton," Buddenborg continued. "The Foutch Brothers plan is a very sustainable one that would meet the community's need and use existing infrastructure and buildings, thereby cutting costs and saving valuable resources. If completed, it will be an asset to the Yankton community that will uniquely set it apart from any other in the state, as well as the country.'

Aside from finding compatible uses for the buildings and getting local and state support for the project, Foutch said the biggest challenge is finding a way to finance the improvements.

'Rental housing costs more to develop than what the rent will pay for," he stated. "That's true everywhere. If you are building rental housing, you

have to plug that funding gap somehow. In the case of these historic rehabilitation projects, they cost a little bit more. Even though these buildings are very cool, they're a little more expensive to rehab with a funding gap. I've got eight different funding sources that I've identified that I would try to piece together to make work. They include public and private, as well as local, state and federal sources

Buddenborg said she has connected the Foutch Brothers with the National Trust Community Investment Corporation (NTCIC), which is a forprofit subsidiary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation that syndicates state and federal tax credits for historic rehabilitation, lowincome housing and solar projects.

"It provides upfront financing for rehab projects that is often critical to project success," Buddenborg stated. "Since 2000, NTCIC has placed more than \$575 million in gross equity and debt towards more than 85 projects with total development costs over \$2 billion. The Foutch Brothers and NTCIC are exploring a partnership. We also have a grant program that could provide a smaller set of funds for project planning. This has also been offered to the Foutch Brothers.

The Yankton County Historical Society has received two such grants in the past for its work at the Mead Building, which is also located on the HSC campus.

Foutch said he hopes a plan can be assembled and construction under way sometime next year.

"We think Yankton is a good community that is worth

investing in," he stated. "If we thought there was no support for the project, we wouldn't waste our time. But there do seem to be people locally offering strong support, and the governor's office is offering strong support, too. I would not say it's a slam dunk. Convincing the governor's office to do it is still a challenge, but we're willing to take a shot at it. Hopefully, we can make it come together. If we can, I can tell you right now it will be a great project and something everyone can be proud of.'

Buddenborg said she appreciates the willingness of the governor's office to work with the Foutch Brothers and hopes the project will open the door to finding uses for other buildings on the campus before they are demolished. 'Here we have another re-

use proposal for the HSC campus, now to join the Yankton County Historical Society's adaptive re-use of the Mead Building," she stated. "These are two very positive movements for this historically-designated place.

'Yes, it has taken us a while to get here, but let's not stop now. There are seven other vacant, historic buildings on that campus that could contribute to a more vibrant and comprehensive campus redevelopment. The Foutch Brothers see great potential at the HSC campus. They may not be the only developer to think so. I think it would be great if the governor's office would play a more active role in reaching out to developers and paving a way for their investment in these treasures.

You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage

# Wagner

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rades, you need to think of Wagner," he said. "What an incredible celebration, and (my wife) Karen and I get to be in the parade. I'm borrowing a car from a friend over there. I'll be riding in a Shelby Mustang, which is a pretty cool

The Wagner Labor Day celebration brings out the best of the area, Michels said.

"It's the excitement not only of the holiday, but getting together with friends in that region," he said. "The people in Wagner are so hospitable. I'm really looking forward to

This year's new events at Wagner include the Midwest Dueling Pianos, the Veterans Labor Day Ride and the Kids Fishing Tournament.

The Midwest Dueling Pianos will perform an all-ages show at 9 p.m. Saturday in the Armory, Nielsen said.

'Usually, it's two pianos back-to-back, and they put on an entertainment and comedy show," he said. "They have a lot of crowd interaction and take crowd requests.'

Nielsen has found a great deal of interest in the event.

'We usually try to change up the Saturday night event. We asked the community what they wanted this year, and dueling pianos came up on the surveys," he said. "The dueling pianos are really popular. We booked them back in November, and we're expecting 400 to 500 people at the show.

Another new event, the Veteran's Ride, is featured Sunday afternoon. Registration will be held at the American Legion post in Wagner from noon to 2 p.m., with departure at 2 p.m.

'The ride goes from Wagner to Springfield and stops at the Veterans Memorial at Terrace Park," Nielsen said. "Then, (participants) ride along the Missouri River and stop to visit with Col. Robert Monfore (who resides in the area). They go up to Pickstown and Fort Randall, then end up at the American Legion post (in Wagner)."

The other new event, the kids' fishing tournament at Wagner Lake, is organized by Ryan Rucktaeschel. Boys and girls compete in separate divisions, with prizes for ages 10 and under and ages 11-15.

"It's another thing for the kids to do on Monday afternoon, along with the money sandpile," Nielsen said.

Activity unofficially kicks off Friday night with a race at the Wagner Speedway, Nielsen said.

Saturday's activities include the road race, kids' parade, 14th annual poker run, kids' pedal tractor pull, Queen Contest, Wagner Saddle Club rodeo and Midwest Dueling Pianos.

The poker run registration will be held at Fort Randall Casino. The route includes nine stops at Pickstown, Lake Andes, Armour, Delmont, Dante and Wagner.

'The prize money is based on 200 entrants. If we get 200 entries, we will give \$1,000 for first place," Nielsen said, adding that prizes are planned through tenth place.

Sunday's schedule includes the Figure 8 race, the veterans' ride, rib feed, bean bag tournament, Show & Shine display of cars and motorcycles, Wagner Saddle Club rodeo, car cruise and the dance and social featuring Rat Pac.

Monday's schedule includes the parade, kid's money sandpile, kids' fishing tournament and Wagner Speedway season championships.

The carnival midway will run all three days, while the festival in the park runs Sunday and Monday.

This year's Labor Day celebration honors Tom and Linda Soukup as parade marshals.

'The Soukups are very active in the community, and we would just like to show our appreciation," Nielsen said. Linda has been on various committees, and she was the first woman's president of the Wagner Chamber in 2004.'

The Labor Day celebration remains a tradition for area residents, with many families using it for reunions and holiday gatherings, Nielsen said.

We have been in business 113 years (with the celebration)," he said. "Back when I was growing up, we didn't have school until the day after Labor Day. Now, they start school before Labor Day, but it's still the big event before we get far into school. It's the last big weekend before fall.'

For more information on the Labor Day celebration, visit Facebook or online at www.cityofwagner.org.

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at twitter.com/RDockendorf



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