

Ranch May Be Added To Wind Cave Park

BY WAYNE ORTMAN
Associated Press Writer

SIoux FALLS — A 5,500-acre ranch could become part of Wind Cave National Park after the Conservation Fund purchased the land at public auction on behalf of the park in southwest South Dakota.

The nonprofit Conservation Fund bid \$7.5 million and will hold the Casey ranch in trust until Congress approves money to buy it, Tom Farrell, spokesman for the park, said Friday.

The sale Wednesday capped 10 years of uncertainty on whether the land would remain in its natu-

ral state as part of the 107-year-old park or be developed for homes and business.

President Obama's fiscal year 2011 budget includes \$8.5 million to purchase the ranch, which is adjacent to the existing 28,295-acre park and contains timber, grass, rugged outcroppings and cultural sites, Farrell said.

"It's an amazing piece of land, a natural extension of the park," he said.

The sale was part of a court-ordered settlement involving members of the Casey family, owners of the tourism attraction Bear Country USA in the Black Hills.

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Stimulus money is also being used to do major maintenance work on 46 relief wells and approximately 30 piezometers along the length of the dam. The cost of that work is approximately \$50,000.

"As you drive over the dam, you'll see various pipes called piezometers, which are used to check the various water levels within the dam," Becker stated. "That's our way of seeing if the dam is holding back water like it ought to be holding it back. Are the water levels in the dam really what they should be? Are they changing or staying the same? It's something you want to keep an eye on."

Cleaning, testing and maintenance of the piezometers probably hasn't been done in 20-30 years, he said.

Furthermore, a \$1.5 million project to sandblast and re-paint the dam's 10 intake gates, which allow water into the power plant, is about half complete. A combination of federal stimulus money and maintenance funds provided by Congress is being used on the project.

"It's going really well," Becker said of the undertaking, which is expected to be complete late next spring.

Soon, stimulus money will be employed to begin rehabilitating the dam's three major cranes. That project is estimated to cost \$1.6 million.

"It's nice to catch up on these things. Money is hard to come by," Becker said. "The dam is over 50 years old, and like anything it needs maintenance."

REGION DIGEST

USDA To Have Summer-Long Food Drive

The USDA Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Rural Development are partnering with the office of personnel management to participate in Feds, Farmers and Friends Feed Families, a summer-long food drive.

All federal employees, farmers, community gardeners and the public are encouraged to participate. Please help make a difference by contributing hygiene products, canned food items, non-perishable items, or fresh produce to your local USDA service center located at 2914 Broadway Avenue, prior to Aug. 31.

All donations will be delivered to the local contact center in Yankton. The Hy-Vee in Yankton has agreed to help feed families. There is a drop off box in the north entrance to their store.

Summer Food Service At Webster Ends Friday

Summer Food Service at Webster Elementary School in Yankton will end Friday, July 30.

The Middle School Summer Food Service program's last day was Friday, July 23. Children who have been attending Middle School can go to Webster School and eat for the last week we are serving lunch.

Little Chicago Syncopators To Perform

The Summer Pops Concert Series continues on Tuesday, July 27, at the Riverside Park amphitheatre with the Little Chicago Syncopators out of Sioux City.

The Little Chicago Syncopators is a New Orleans style jazz ensemble, featuring Pete Hittle on cornet, Brad Hittle on string bass, Alan Arnold on trombone, Murph Monahan on clarinet, Gary Lewis on banjo, Charles Sanders on piano and Randy Washburn on drums.

There are only three more concerts on our schedule for the summer, so plan to spend at least one Tuesday night enjoying the music in the park before the series comes to an end. Visit www.YanktonAreaArts.org for more information on the Summer Pops Concert Series and a complete schedule of the remaining shows.

The Summer Pop Concert series is sponsored by Yankton Area Arts and the City of Yankton. For more information, call Yankton Area Arts (605) 665-9754.

Yankton Community Library Meeting Planned

The Yankton Community Library Building Task Force and Library Board of Trustees joint monthly meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 28, in the Library meeting room, 515 Walnut.

For further information, call 668-5275.

FCSLA/CW District/State Picnic and Meeting

TABOR — Attention all S.D. FCSLA/CW Members: The FCSLA/CW District/State Picnic & Meeting will be at noon on Sunday, Aug. 1, at Beseda Hall, Tabor.

A meal will be furnished by state national officers from Cleveland. Those who attend will discuss the by-laws and proposed changes. This is a very important meeting.

If you will be there for the meal, RSVP to Ron Sestak by July 28.

■ Get Updates At Yankton Online (www.yankton.net)



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Touching Down At Chan Gurney

Two hefty pieces of aviation history touched down at Yankton's Chan Gurney Airport Friday. Two Douglas DC-3s that were originally built in the 1940s landed at the airport, with pilots and contingents on their way from the West Coast to the 2010 AirVenture Oshkosh in Oshkosh, Wis. The DC-3s are 65 feet long and 95 feet from wing tip to wing tip. The black-and-white DC-3 (above), which was piloted by Dan Merritt of the Seattle area, was originally built in 1943, while the plane flown by Mike Kimbrel of Oakville, Wash., was built in 1941. The DC-3 was used as a commercial plane as well as for military transport during World War II. Kimbrel, shown with his contingent (right), once flew the DC-3s when he worked as a commercial pilot for Western Airlines. Both planes are headed to a



DC-3 fly-in event in Illinois before heading to Oshkosh. Each year, numerous aircraft stop by the Yankton airport as they had to and from the Oshkosh show, which ends

Aug. 1. The public is encouraged to come out and see the planes as they pass through the area.

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RIVERBOAT DAYS 2010 PARADE ENTRY

Entries are now being accepted for the 2010 Riverboat Days Parade, to be held on August 21st. The parade starts at 9:30 AM. Advance registration is required. Deadline August 2, 2010. The parade size may be limited. Send registration to address listed below.

Parade Theme: "Riverboat Days - Hawaiian Style"

August 21, 2010

2010 August 20-21-22
www.riverboatdays.com

Name of Organization _____ Person to Contact _____

Address/City/State/Zip _____

Telephone Number _____ E-Mail _____

\$20 Fee Per Entry: (up to 5 vehicles in each unit per entry fee). **Late fee is \$40.00**

Please check one of the three divisions in which you want to register

Non-Profit/Service Group Commercial Vehicle

Check the type of your entry:

Band Animal Unit Political Float
 Cars Trucks Tractors Other Vehicle

Total Length of Entry: (Include length of towing vehicle) _____ feet long.

Also include the number of units or animals in your entry. _____

DO YOU WANT TO BE JUDGED FOR AN AWARD? YES _____ NO _____

Prizes awarded in the Non-Profit/Service Group: Cash Prizes: \$300, \$250, \$200, \$150, \$100
Trophies will be awarded in the Commercial (3); and vehicle unit divisions (3)

DESCRIPTION OF ENTRY/ORGANIZATION: **What would you like said about your entry?**
Description **must** accompany entry. Please limit description to 50 words.

The parade committee reserves the right to pull any unit from the parade.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "RIVERBOAT DAYS PARADE" AND RETURN TO:
WAYNE & JOLENE WILLIAMSON, PARADE CO-CHAIRPERSONS
901 W. 3RD STREET, YANKTON, SD 57078
Questions - Phone: Wayne & Jolene Williamson: 605-665-8428
e-mail: wwayne@wyn.midco.net

PLEASE RETURN BY AUGUST 2, 2010
ENTRIES POSTMARKED AFTER THIS DAY MAY NOT BE ACCEPTED!