

Crazy Horse raising final matching funds

By Dirk Lammers
Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D.—A philanthropist's 2007 offer to match \$5 million in donations to speed progress on the mammoth Crazy Horse mountain carving in South Dakota's Black Hills if the money could be raised in four years dumbfounded Crazy Horse president and chief executive Ruth Ziolkowski.

Work on the project had been going on since 1948, and while Crazy Horse's face had been peering across southern Black Hills since 1998, philanthropist T. Denny Sanford wanted to see work on the horse's head—which will be the largest artistic detail at 219 feet high—completed in his lifetime.

But supporters hit the \$4 million mark just before Christmas, and \$100,000 has come in since then.

"People were very generous this year at Christmas," Ruth Ziolkowski said.

Inspired by Gutzon Borglum's carving of nearby Mount Rushmore, Lakota Chief Henry Standing Bear proposed a memorial to Native American heroes with a granite carving near Custer. Ziolkowski's late husband, the sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski, was the longtime leader of the project and his survivors kicked their fundraising efforts into high gear once they received Sanford's offer.

"The first million was the easiest to raise because it was new, we have a lot of wonderful friends and it just seemed to come," Ruth Ziolkowski said.



Crazy Horse Memorial Fund/Linda M. Uphoff photo

A photo of the Crazy Horse mountain with the 1/34th scale model in the foreground. This blast was taken in the fall of 2010 and sent 1,000 ton of rock tumbling down the mountain. The finished carving will be 641 feet long by 563 feet tall.

"And then after that, we didn't have a real plan.

"Korczak always said, 'First you make a friend, then you make a dollar.' We've been for 63 years trying our best to make friends, and I think that has helped us with this campaign more than anything else."

Crazy Horse was a famed Oglala Lakota warrior and leader who played a key role in the 1876 defeat of the U.S. Seventh Cavalry at the Battle of the Little Bighorn in Montana. He died a year later after being stabbed in Nebraska.

When completed, the carving of his image on a bluff about 10 miles southwest of Mount Rushmore will be 641 feet long and 563 feet high.

A welcome center and

museum have opened on the property, but completion of the carving, expansion of a university and construction of a medical training center for Native American students are still years away.

Ziolkowski has taken great faith in the growth of a related scholarship program, which began in 1978 with \$250. By the end of last year, the Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation Scholarship Fund had given nearly \$1.5 million to help mostly Native Americans attending schools in South Dakota.

"Korczak always said that you could do anything in this world you want to do if you're willing to work hard enough and stick with it no matter what," she said.

"That scholarship fund is proof of that."

She took over the project after her husband's death in 1982 and shifted the focus to the carving of Crazy Horse's face, which was dedicated in 1998 at the 50th anniversary and has helped draw more attention to the project.

Seven of the Ziolkowski's 10 children and several grandchildren work at the memorial, which drew 1.2 million visitors to the southern Black Hills in 2010. It brings in millions of dollars every year, mainly through admission fees. The family has followed Korczak Ziolkowski's admonition to refuse government help and rely on private enterprise.

Spared slaughter, some bison migrate into Montana

By Matthew Brown
Associated Press

CORWIN SPRINGS, Mont.—For the first time since the 1800s, a small group of wild bison were herded last week through fresh-fallen snow to reach their historical grazing grounds north of Yellowstone National Park.

As pronghorn antelope and mule deer scattered to avoid the procession, park employees and state livestock agents on horseback pushed the 25 bison about 10 miles down the Yellowstone River valley. It took about three hours to reach an open meadow in the Gallatin National Forest, where the animals will be allowed to remain until spring.

The move could provide at least some relief from government-sponsored mass slaughters of the iconic Western animals, often called buffalo. Past winter journeys by bison seeking to graze at lower elevations have been blocked over fears that a disease carried by some could infect cattle.

During the last major migration, in 2008, 1,600 Yellowstone bison were killed—about a third of the park's total. Yet progress toward ending the slaughters remains tenuous. Deep snow in Yellowstone's interior has set the stage for another major migration to lower elevations this year. Hundreds of bison

could yet be captured and killed.

"It seems like the progress is slow, but it's slow because it's so complex," said Colin Campbell, Yellowstone's acting superintendent. "In all reality, there will always be limits, like there are with any wildlife species."

Wildlife officials said the Forest Service land where the 25 bison will be allowed to roam is roughly 2,500 acres, or less than four square miles. If this year's "test" operation goes well, the number of bison allowed eventually could be increased to 100.

Government agencies and private conservation groups agreed to pay more than \$3 million to establish a bison travel corridor through the Royal Teton Ranch, a sprawling property just north of Yellowstone owned by the Church Universal and Triumphant.

Electrified fencing now lines the dirt road through the ranch—newfound tolerance for bison in Montana has limits. Critics dubbed the route the "corridor to nowhere" because bison that try to migrate much farther will be turned back or killed.

"You can't treat bison like livestock. This is a wild animal and they've set up a livestock operation" said Stephany Seay with the Buffalo Field Campaign.

To keep close tabs on the animals, they received ear tags, radio collars and, for females, tracking devices implanted in their vaginas in case they abort their young.

Briefly

EPA OKs clean air plan for Gila River reservation

PHOENIX (AP)—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is praising a clean air plan put together by the Gila River Indian Community.

The tribe spent 12 years developing and implementing the plan that was approved by the EPA this week.

The plan includes tribal regulations aimed at heavy manufacturing businesses and sand and gravel plants. They will limit dust emissions and storage of chemicals used in metal cleaning, among others.

The tribe also developed its own inspectors, most members of the community about 35 miles south of Phoenix.

The EPA says Gila River's plan can be a model for other tribes as they develop their own plans to meet national air quality standards.

Cleanup crews open both lanes of Wash. highway

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP)—The Washington Transportation Department says both lanes of Washington Highway 112 in Clallam County reopened on the evening of Jan. 20 after state crews and a Port Angeles contractor finished clearing a landslide.

The highway was closed for about 21 hours following the Jan. 14 slide that buried 150 feet of road and blocked access to the Makah Indian Reservation.

Transportation spokesman Joe Irwin says his agency and the Makah Nation were able to establish one-way, alternating

traffic on Jan. 15. Bruch and Bruch Construction got crews to the remote site and began clearing away 3,000 to 4,000 cubic yards of material.

Conservatives want \$90 billion more in cuts

WASHINGTON (AP)—House conservatives vowed last week to slash domestic programs well beyond the already steep spending cuts promised by GOP leaders in the midterm election campaign that put Republicans in control of the chamber.

A proposal unveiled by the Republican Study Committee, whose conservative members make up about three-fourths of the House GOP conference, called for bringing domestic agency budgets down to the 2006 levels in place when Republicans last controlled Congress. That's about a \$175 billion cut from current levels and roughly \$90 billion more than the cuts promised by Republicans last fall.

Behind the scenes, conservatives are pressuring GOP leaders to deliver on a promise to immediately pass legislation cutting Cabinet budgets by \$100 billion this fiscal year, which began Oct. 1 and is already one-third over. Agencies have been operating at 2010 rates and will at least until a stopgap spending bill expires March 4.

While conservatives are pressing for deeper cuts, appropriators are looking to protect budgets for agencies such as NASA, the FBI and Indian Health Service.

Arkansas professor continues to enjoy making pottery

By Luke Jones
The Daily Citizen

SEARCY, Ark.—"What you have is earth, fire and water," he said. "That's pretty much all you have in pottery no matter what you do."

The speaker was Paul Pitt, a professor of fine art at Harding University, or as he is sometimes known, Coyote Clay. Pitt has been making pottery since 1965 and has an acute fascination with primitive cultures.

"I have such an interest in closeness to the earth that primitive cultures really get my attention," he said. "I really

appreciate people who can live off the land and survive without going to Wal-Mart for everything."

Pitt grew up in Memphis and was hired by Harding in 1971, where he has taught art classes since. While selling his pottery, Pitt began to find difficulty in pitching "primitive art" that did not actually come from a Native American. The solution to his problem, as it turned out, came from a young man named Sky Hawk.

"He was one of my students," Pitt said. "When he found out I had trouble marketing because my pieces were not made by a

real Indian, he said, 'I'll adopt you.'"

Sky Hawk is a member of the Neches tribe and, after his father died, he became Chief White Eagle. According to the Neches tribe's official website, they broke off from the Cherokees in the early 19th century and settled in the Ozarks.

Pitt said White Eagle gave him his Neches name, Coyote Clay.

"I didn't really like (the name) at first," Pitt said. "I looked up 'coyote' in the dictionary, and it said he was a 'mischievous pest.' But that's white man's viewpoint. Indians don't think of coyotes in the same way."

Pitt said the more virtuous, Native American qualities of the coyote fit him well: Their singsong yelps parallel Pitt's flute-playing; their small size and high speed correlate to Pitt's love of running; and they burrow into the earth, reminding Pitt of his love for the planet.

In fact, in 1987, Pitt dug his home into a hillside near the edge of town.

"It's not just to save energy," he said. "It's because I like caves. I really enjoy seeing how simplicity can be very practical."

Pitt said it took eight years to convince his wife to try it out, but the result was a great success.

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