Southfork Ranch foreclosure

Top tourist spot attracts fans of 'Dallas' television show

PARKER (AP) — Southfork Ranch was closed recently and sold for foreclosure. But that hasn't kept hundreds of tourists from flocking to the estate made famous by the television show "Dallas."

The ranch, which has been closed since Jan. 1, is viewed from the locked front gate or fence by about 50 people each weekday, security guard Michael Hayes said. On Saturdays, the number grows to 100.

On a recent Saturday, the crowd grew to more than 200, Parker Police Chief Dennis Pirkle said. They came in about 70 cars, many with out-of-state tags, to the estate about 10 miles north of Dallas.

The ranch was rated the state's ninth most popular tourist attraction last summer in a state highway department traveler survey. But it remains to be seen if the estate will reopen.

Glenfed Financial Corp., which had posted the property for foreclosure, bought the 41-acre ranch after being the only bidder on the Collin County Courthouse steps. Glenfed paid $3.15 million.

"We're still looking at all of our options with respect to that real estate," said John Lansing, vice president of the special funding division for Glenfed.

Most visitors haven't heard that the ranch is closed, he said. Two women from Denmark who visited last week did know, but decided to drop by anyway. Karin Romer and Tina Jensen wanted to be able to tell friends back home that they at least saw Southfork.

"I thought it was a lot bigger," Romer said.

For some people, gazing from a distance isn't enough. Hayes said he has been offered bribes to let people through the locked gates.

"I've been offered $100," he said, noting that he declined the offer.

Because of the foreclosure, Southfork Ranch will disappear from the pages of the 248-page "Texas State Travel Guide," published by the Texas Department of Highways and Public Transportation.

"This sort of caught us off guard," said Mike Talley, associate editor of the department's travel and information division.

Department officials found out about the foreclosure as they were laying out pages for the guide's latest edition, which included a half-page picture of Southfork and two mentions of the tourist attraction, Talley said.

"We took it out," he said. "If it does reopen, at a later printing we can put it back in."

What's Up

Monday

BAPTIST STUDENT UNION: fellowship for all transfer and freshman students at 7:45 p.m. at the Baptist Student Union, 203 College Main, behind Loupot's. Call 846-7722 for more information.

TEXAS STUDENT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION: general meeting at 8:30 p.m. in 701 Rudder. Everyone welcome. Call Amy at 776-4242 for more information.

OCA: membership drive at 7 p.m. at Taco Cabana. Bowling at 8:30 p.m. at Wolf Pen Creek Center. Call Keith at 845-0688 for more information.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE ORGANIZATION: weekly meeting open to everyone at 7 p.m. in 402 Rudder.

WOMEN IN COMMUNICATIONS, INC.: Aggieland photo at 8:15 p.m. in the MSC flagroom and election of new vice president and secretary at 8:30 p.m. in 352 MSC. Call Katsy at 696-3530 for more information.

ACCOUNTING SOCIETY: membership sign-up all day in the Blocker lobby. Call Jeff at 764-6850 for more information.

DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT AFFAIRS: Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration. The King Holiday Video will be shown at noon. Guest speaker Dr. Norma Guerra, assistant vice president for student development, University of Texas at San Antonio at 3 p.m. Call Denise, 845-2235, for more information.

FITLIFE, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION: enroll now for FITLIFE exercise classes. Call 845-3997 for more information.

TAMU ROADRUNNERS: general meeting at 7 p.m. in 510 Rudder. Call David at 693-6368 for more information.

HONORS STUDENT COUNCIL: general meeting at 7:30 p.m. in 504 Rudder.

COLLEGIATE 4-H: meeting in 123 Kleberg. Call Toby at 696-4416 for more information.

GENETICS SOCIETY: pictures for Aggieland at 7:30 p.m. in the MSC flagroom. Call Keith at 693-5452 for more information.

CUBAN CULTURAL SOCIETY: general meeting at 8 p.m. in 123 Academic Building. Call Elena at 693-2745 for more information.

MSC ALL NIGHT FAIR: general committee meeting, anyone welcome at 8:30 p.m. in 404 Rudder. Call Michelle at 847-1757 for more information.

Tuesday

TEXAS A&M NUTRITION SOCIETY: meeting with students speaking on sports nutrition and eating disorders at 7 p.m. in 227 Kleberg. Call Susan at 693-3556 for more information.

BAPTIST STUDENT UNION: intensive discipleship through Aggie Growth Groups at 5:30 p.m. Survival for New Christians, learning to grow stronger in Christ at 6:30 p.m., both at the Baptist Student Union, 203 College Main, behind Loupot's. Call 846-7722 for more information.

TAMU SCUBA CLUB: general meeting at 7 p.m. in 510 Rudder. Call Brent at 823-0788 for more information.

TAMU HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION: first meeting of spring semester at 7 p.m. in the Kleberg Center.

DPMA: ICDP: Coopers & Lybrand in the former students center. Call BANA office at 845-1616 for more information.

OUTDOOR RECREATION CLUB: organizational meeting with slide show at 7 p.m. in 302 Rudder. Call James at 847-4297 for more information.

TEXAS A&M FLYING CLUB: new members meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the clubhouse. Call Kevin at 847-7955 for more information.

METHODIST STUDENT CENTER: breakfast and devotional at 7 a.m. in the Methodist Student Center. Call Judy at 846-4701 for more information.

COLLEGE REPUBLICANS: first meeting of semester at 8:30 p.m. in 701 Rudder. Call Reggie at 847-2201 for more information.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT: Student Government Awareness Week. Call Gayle or Tiffany at 845-3051 for more information.

GENETICS SOCIETY: meeting - Baylor College of Medicine and Ph.D. program will be present at 7:30 p.m. in 108 Biochemistry Building. Call Keith at 693-5452 for more information.

OMEGA PHI ALPHA: Rush informational meeting at 6 to 7 p.m. in 404 Rudder.

LITERARY ARTS COMMITTEE: first meeting of semester at 8:30 p.m. in 404 Rudder.

PAX CHRISTI: first meeting of the semester for this international peace organization at 7 p.m. in St. Mary's Student Center Library. Call Catherine at 764-2112 for more information.

BIBLE STUDY: this week's topic: Mark 14 and 15 at 7 p.m. in St. Mary's Student Center. Call 846-5717 for more information.

ASSOCIATION OF A&M GUITARISTS: general meeting and elections at 8 p.m. in 109 Blocker.

PSYCHOLOGY CLUB: we will have an organizational meeting to discuss committees, upcoming events and T-shirt sales at 7 p.m. in 106 Psychology Building. T-shirts turned out great, only $10.

WILEY LECTURE SERIES: general committee meeting at 7 p.m. in Rudder. Call Paulette at 847-0024 for more information.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION: general meeting at 6 p.m. check FMA bulletin board in Blocker for place. Call Paulette at 847-0024 for more information.

SQUASH CLUB: first-ever general meeting to establish club and A&M recognition at 8:30 p.m. in 146 MSC. Officers will be chosen. Call David at 847-2788 for more information.

TAMU WATERSKI CLUB: informational meeting in 206 MSC. Call Travis at 847-1231 or Cass at 693-8770 for more information.

AGGIES FOR LIFE: pro-life rally at noon-1 p.m. in MSC flagroom. Guest speakers. Call Stacy at 847-5300 for more information.

SPANISH CLUB (LA TERTULIA): first meeting of semester and elect two new officers at 9 p.m. at Taco Cabana. anyone interested in Spanish is welcome. Call Anne at 847-1261 for more information.

DELTA SIGMA PI: informational meeting with Dr. Larry Gresham speaking on "Taking Advantage of Texas A&M" at 7 p.m. in 206 MSC.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no later than three business days before the desired run date. We publish the name and phone number of the contact only if you ask us to do so. What's Up is a Battalion service that lists non-profit events and activities. Submissions are run on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no guarantee an entry will run. If you have questions, call the newsroom at 845-3316.

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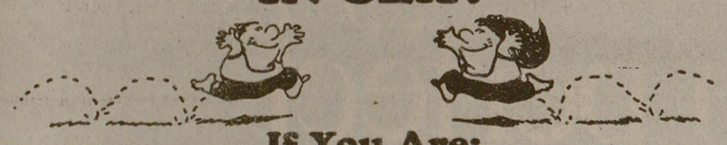
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