



RON MARSHALL
sent team to site



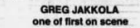
TODD WAINSCOTT
found Steve Anders alive



MIKE PETTITT
led way to Paul Nutting



LARRY SCHWEND
dug snow with hands



GREG JAKKOLA
one of first on scene

Buried alive!

Rescuers find 2 boys trapped in snowslide

By DENNIS GAUB
Of The Gazette Staff

ROBERTS — One youngster was critically injured, while another escaped serious injury when the two boys were buried beneath a large slab of snow that broke loose from a steep hill here Tuesday.

A third boy, who had also been sliding near Roberts when the slab broke loose, was at the base of the hill when the snowslide occurred at about 5:15 p.m.

Bryant Nutting, 8, a fourth grader, ran for help, starting rescue efforts that eventually involved 50 to 60 members of this south-central Montana community.

Bryant's brother, Paul Nutting, a kindergarten student, was listed in critical condition Wednesday at Deaconess Hospital. The 7-year-old was transported to Billings by the HELIP helicopter at about 6 p.m. Tuesday.

Rescuers used shovels and their hands, gloved and bare, to dig through 4 to 5 feet of snow to reach the boys. It took about 40 minutes to find Paul, who was buried the longest.

Steve Anders, 8, a third grader, was the first to be found, about five minutes before Paul, according to several rescuers. Steve was conscious and didn't receive medical assistance.

"He has a few bruises and his neck is stiff," his father, Tom Anders, said. "It was pretty traumatic, but he's not hurt."

For 14 members of the Roberts High School basketball team, practice ended abruptly Tuesday when the slide was reported. Several players were instrumental in the rescue, but Ron Marshall, school superintendent and head basketball coach, hesitated to call them heroes.

"The players responded just as I would expect any person would. It was an emergency, and they did everything they could do to help. Speaking for them, I don't think they see themselves as heroes. That's not the kind of hero you like to be," Marshall said.

According to Anders, the three boys did some after-school chores Tuesday, then got together to go sledding on a steep hill about a half mile east of town. Because the hill is across a road from the cemetery, it's known as Cemetery Hill to many residents, though some call it Wentworth Hill.

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Gazette photos by Larry Meyer

Cracks run through the snow on a steep hill east of Roberts where two boys were rescued Tuesday after they were buried under a snowslide.

Airline plan set down by foul-up

Robertson too late for vote

By TOM HOWARD
Gazette Sheridan Bureau

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — Call it a technically — or maybe it was a mix-up.

It required the interruption of a roll-call vote, but a bill to develop an intrastate airline system with a state aeronautics authority and subsidies died on the House floor Wednesday.

The House Transportation Committee voted 7-4 against the bill Tuesday. But, at the urging of the bill's sponsor, Sen. Tom Stroock, R-Casper, members of the committee tried to tack some of its provisions on to an economic development bill under consideration in the House.

The plan was to piggyback the amendment on to a bill, sponsored by Sen. Gerald Geis, R-Worldad, that would create a state economic development board.

Rep. Philip Robertson, R-Cody, who was to be in charge of the amendment, said it was late getting to the House floor from the printers. He was attending other business outside the House chamber when the House began voting on the bill.

When it was discovered the amendment hadn't been considered, House Transportation Committee Chairman Rep. Doug Chamberlain, R-LaGrange, asked to interrupt the vote. The House voted down a request to suspend the rules and consider the amendment, dooming the subsidy idea.

Robertson, who supported Stroock's original bill, said the chance of amending the aeronautics authority provisions onto the bill would have been slim anyway.

Big Horn head 'confused' by land-swap plan

SHERIDAN, Wyo. (AP) — The supervisor of the Big Horn National Forest in northern Wyoming says he's "confused," because a proposed land exchange between two federal agencies bears little resemblance to what was initially proposed.

The Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management announced last month a proposed swap of managerial duties for various pieces of public land in Wyoming, including transferring the Big Horn Forest from Forest Service jurisdiction to BLM.

But Big Horn Forest Supervisor Ed Schultz said Wednesday that wasn't the plan as outlined in a General Accounting Office report last December. Schultz said the plan then was to merge the Big Horn and Shoshone national forests and BLM lands in the Big Horn Basin into a single office in Worldad — and keep it under Forest Service jurisdiction.

"It dealt with a whole different concept," Schultz said in an original proposal, adding the current plan is "entirely different than what is shown in the GAO report."

He was confused as anybody else on this one," he added.

Schultz said the new plan follows the original by placing the Forest Service's Thunder Basin District and the Laramie Peak District of the Medicine Bow National Forest under

BLM jurisdiction. But the GAO said the rest of the Medicine Bow Forest in southeastern Wyoming would be merged with the Roosevelt, Arapaho and Roosevelt national forests in Colorado, closing the supervisor's office in Laramie, which wasn't mentioned last month, he said.

What puzzles Schultz most is that the supposed cost savings and benefits being touted for the latest land exchange plan are the same as were voiced for the first plan, even though the plans are very different.

"It really raises some questions that I do not have the answers for," he said Wednesday. "The GAO report was very complimentary of the job that was done in the state of Wyoming and the potential savings that are referred to in that report."

"The current concept is so dramatically different up in northwestern Wyoming that I don't know where it came from, and I don't know any idea how the costs would correlate, because it's a totally different concept."

He added that "the concept we are currently looking at uses the same dollar figures of saving and implementation."

Federal officials say further details of the plan, which would ultimately require congressional approval, are to be worked out later this spring.

U.S., Soviets to discuss Middle East

WASHINGTON (UPI) President Reagan said Wednesday that U.S. and Soviet officials will meet in Vienna next week in an attempt to "straighten out some matters" on Middle East issues concerning the superpowers.

The State Department said U.S. and Soviet officials will discuss the Arab-Israeli conflict, Lebanon, the Iran-Iraq war and the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan during the two-day Vienna talks.

Israel had no immediate comment on the talks set for Tuesday in the Austrian capital. Israel has been wary about such U.S.-Soviet talks since the United States and the Soviet Union negotiated a statement on the Middle East in 1977 without consulting the Israelis.

Reagan remarks came as Israeli troops withdrew from the southern Lebanese port of Sidon, whose residents cheered in the streets while

the Israelis took up new positions outside the city as part of a three-stage Israeli military pullback in Lebanon.

Reagan, in an impromptu news conference, said, "There's some reason to believe that we can straighten out some matters." State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb said the talks "should not be seen as negotiations and we do not anticipate any agreements."

Richard Murphy, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, will represent the United States. The Soviets will be represented by Vladimir Polykov, head of the Near East division of the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko first proposed the talks to Reagan during their White House meeting last fall. The idea was discussed briefly by Secretary of State George Shultz and

Gromyko in Switzerland, last month.

The State Department announcement came amid renewed activity on the Middle Eastern diplomatic front, but Kalb declined to comment on the timing.

Saudi Arabian King Fahd, visiting Washington this week, urged the United States to work "more vigorously" for peace in the Middle East and to support "the just cause of the Palestinian people."

On Monday, Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat and Jordan's King Hussein agreed in Amman on a joint effort to seek a "just and peaceful settlement" for the region.

Arafat and Hussein reportedly agreed for the PLO and Jordan to seek a settlement based on U.N. resolutions calling for Israel to give up occupied territories in exchange for peace and recognition of its right to exist.

Health panel labels obesity a killer disease

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Obesity was called a killer disease for the first time by a national panel of experts Wednesday, and people only 20 percent overweight were termed obese and said to face significant health hazards.

"We want the average American and his physicians to know that obesity is a disease," said Dr. Jules Hirsch, the committee chairman. "It is a disease, and it carries with it the risk for increased mortality and deserves to be treated and considered just as seriously as any other illness."

The 14-member panel, convened by the National Institutes of Health, also broke new ground

by deciding after two days of debate to lower the level at which a person is considered obese from 40 percent to 30 percent above the ideal weight set by life insurance tables for adults.

It was estimated that 34 million adult Americans are obese by that standard and in need of medical help. In addition, the panel said people who are even a few pounds overweight should be treated if they have diabetes or high blood pressure.

"Obesity is a killer," said Hirsch, of Rockefeller University in New York. "It is a killer as smoking is."

The 14-member panel, consisting of doctors and nutritionists, said obesity is closely associated with high blood pressure, abnormally high levels of cholesterol in the blood, adult diabetes and increased risk of cancers of the colon, rectum and prostate in men and cancers of the gallbladder, the bile passages, breast, cervix, uterus and ovaries in women.

The committee also said recent studies have indicated that the location of fat on the body also can be important. Some research has suggested that fat in the abdomen as opposed to fat on the thighs and buttocks may pose a greater risk.

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outside

Mostly sunny days today through Friday, and clear at night. Highs today to 45, lows tonight lower to 35 to 20. Highs Friday in 40s to 50s.

Attention, Gazette subscribers

Effective March 1, 1985, the suggested retail price of seven-day home delivery of The Gazette will change to \$9.75 a month.

Daily-only delivery will be \$7. Sunday-only service will be \$4.50 a month.

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