

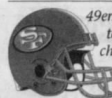


**WEATHER**  
**SCATTERED SNOW**  
 East winds 10-25 mph through  
 passes causing local drifting  
 snow. Monday, chance of snow.  
 High 12/Low 0/Precip. 30%

SUNDAY

# Missoulian

SPORTS



49ers, Bills advance  
 to conference  
 championships  
 D1



JANUARY 10, 1993

MISSOULA, MONTANA

\$1.25

**TODAY**

On Page Two...

## RESTAURANT RAMPAGE

Seven people were found shot to death Saturday in an Illinois fast-food restaurant described as a homey place where no one worried about safety or even locked the back door during work hours. **A2**

## World News...

### BAGHDAD BLINKS

Military action against Iraq was averted Saturday as the White House said Saddam Hussein had "backed down" and dispersed anti-aircraft missiles threatening allied patrols in southern Iraq. But even as the crisis was defused, White House and Pentagon officials put Baghdad on stern notice there will be no warning next time before the allies remove any Iraqi threat. **A3**



### BOSNIA BOWS OUT

Bosnia's deputy prime minister was buried Saturday after being slain by Serb nationalists, and President Alija Izetbegovic said his government was pulling out of peace talks. **A3**

### REBELS RUN

In the latest of a string of victories, government troops on Saturday captured the headquarters of UNITA rebel leader Jonas Savimbi in a central Angolan city, a report said. Savimbi, however, reportedly escaped. **A6**

## Dow Jones...



**DOWN 49.44**  
 for week ending  
 January 8  
 Close 3,251.67  
 Market Report **F4,F5**

# Snowy mountain claims boy



KURT WILSON/Missoulian

**RESCUERS** carry the body of 13-year-old Pershing Clarence Phillips III from a ravine on Mount Jumbo Saturday after he was killed by an avalanche while hiking in the area.

## Avalanche sends hikers tumbling down windswept Mount Jumbo

By **JOHN STROMMEN**  
 of the Missoulian

A freak avalanche on the east side of Mount Jumbo swept an East Missoula boy to his death Saturday afternoon while he hiked with three of his friends on the steep hillside.

Two of the other three youths were buried in snow, but were rescued by the fourth youth, Matt Tripp, 14, of East Missoula. The survivors were unharmed.

Missoula County Coroner Jerry Crego identified the dead boy as 13-year-old Pershing Clarence "Percy" Phillips III. He was a student at Rattlesnake School. His parents are Pershing and Linda Phillips.

The avalanche started with a crashing sound, said Milan Tripp, 13, a classmate of Percy Phillips, and brother of Matt. The other youth buried in the snow slide was Jerry Sims, 12, also of East Missoula.

"We were just rolling inside of it. When it stopped, only my knees to my feet were sticking out, and Percy, only his ankles were sticking out, and Jerry was completely buried in an upright position," said Milan Tripp.

"I didn't know which position I was facing or if I was laying upside down until I started kicking my feet, 'cause they were free. Then I knew I was laying side-

ways, but I was wedged so tight I couldn't get my arms out, and I just started yelling as loud as I could. I just tried to get out, and Matt dug me out," Milan Tripp said.

When Matt heard the crack of snow break far above him he ran as fast as he could along the mountainside. He saw the others being swept down into a ravine, and he too, was caught by snow, but was not buried. After he struggled back to the others, he heard his brother's cries. He immediately dug his brother out. Matt saw where Sims was buried, and while Milan tried to help Phillips, Matt dug Sims out.

It was hard digging. The snow was so crusted that it had to be pounded and broken with fists, the boys said. When Sims was free, Matt told his younger brother to go down the mountain-side for help. Matt lent some of his outerwear to Jerry Sims to help him keep warm, and continued to try to help the Phillips boy, but to no avail.

Missoula Deputy Sheriff Jerry Ball, who directed the search and rescue efforts on the mountain, said Phillips was crushed by heavy snow and was unable to breathe. The victim was presumed to be dead after he was carried on a litter down the steep ravine about 4

(See **AVALANCHE**, Page A-10)



KURT WILSON/Missoulian

**MATT TRIPP**, right, was able to rescue his brother Milan, left, and Jerry Sims from the snow.