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■ United States joins international aid effort to help quake-ravaged Haiti

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■ A list of international organizations that are accepting donations

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## Total Devastation



Injured people sit along Delmas Road, Wednesday, the day after an earthquake struck Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

## Security breach raises questions about TSA

By DANIEL PERSON  
Chronicle Staff Writer

A passenger getting through security at Gallatin Field with a gun, coupled with ongoing complaints about how passengers are treated at checkpoints, is trying the patience of the head of the local airport authority.

Now, Dick Roehm is raising the prospect turning to a private company to handle security at the airport.

On the morning of Sunday, Dec. 13, Transportation Security Administration screeners at Gallatin Field inadvertently allowed a man with a firearm in his carry-on bag through security, according to a TSA statement released Wednesday.

While in the boarding area, the unidentified man realized he had the gun and turned himself into TSA officials.

“How can someone get through the checkpoint with a firearm when I have to take off my belt?”

— Dick Roehm,  
Gallatin Field  
Airport Authority

In response, TSA rescreened every passenger at the airport, including passengers on a Horizon Air flight that had left the gate but not yet taken off, delaying three flights for more than an hour, said Roehm, who was briefed on the incident.

The gun was turned over to local law enforcement and the passenger was allowed to continue on the flight, TSA spokesman Dwayne Baird said in a written statement.

Dealing with security is one of the most common complaints Roehm hears about the airport, he said, and the breach only added to his frustration.

“How can someone get through the checkpoint with a firearm when I have to take off my belt?” Roehm asked Wednesday.

While no formal motions have been made to contract security out, and none are planned for the airport authority's regular meeting today, Roehm said he wants the idea explored.

(More **Airport**, Page A10)

## Bozeman woman at Haiti orphanage survives temblor

By KARIN RONNOW  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Rhyan Buettner, of Bozeman, was on the second floor of God's Littlest Angels orphanage in Haiti Tuesday when a massive earthquake rocked the impoverished Caribbean country.

When the quake hit at 4:53 p.m., Buettner was in the biggest nursery at the orphanage, which is perched in the mountains above Petion-Ville, about 10 miles from the epicenter of the 7.0-magnitude quake.

“The entire room tipped from side to side,” Buettner, 24, wrote in an e-mail Wednesday morning. “We are located on the side of the mountain and at first I thought it was a landslide and we were going down the hill. The house shook for about 40 seconds. By the time we realized what it was, the shaking had stopped.”

(More **Survive**, Page A9)

in an English class when the earth shook at 4:53 p.m. and the building collapsed.

“The professor is dead. Some of the students are dead, too,” said Occilus, who suspected he had several broken bones. “Everything hurts.”

Other survivors carried injured to hospitals in wheelbarrows and on stretchers fashioned from doors.

In Petion-Ville, next to the capital, people used sledgehammers and their bare hands to dig through a collapsed shopping center, tossing aside mattresses and office supplies. More than a dozen cars were entombed, including a U.N. truck.

Nearby, about 200 survivors, including many children, huddled in a theater parking lot using sheets to rig makeshift tents and shield themselves from the sun in 90-degree heat.

At a triage center improvised in a hotel parking lot, people with cuts, broken bones and crushed ribs moaned under tent-like covers fashioned from bloody sheets.

“I can't take it anymore. My back hurts too much,” said Alex Georges, 28, who was still waiting for treatment a day after his school collapsed and killed 11 classmates. A body lay a few feet away.

(More **Quake**, Page A10)

## Thousands feared dead after earthquake in Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Dazed survivors wandered past dead bodies in rubble-strewn streets Wednesday, crying for loved ones, and rescuers desperately searched collapsed buildings as fear rose that the death toll from Haiti's devastating earthquake could reach into the tens of thousands.

The first cargo planes with food, water, medical supplies, shelter and sniffer dogs headed to the Western Hemisphere's poorest nation a day after the magnitude-7 quake flattened much of the capital of 2 million people.

Tuesday's earthquake brought down buildings great and small — from shacks in shantytowns to President Rene Preval's gleaming white National Palace, where a dome tilted ominously above the manicured grounds.

Hospitals, schools and the main prison collapsed. The capital's Roman Catholic archbishop was killed when his office and the main cathedral fell. The head of the U.N. peacekeeping mission was missing in the ruins of the organization's headquarters.

Police officers turned their pickup trucks into ambulances to carry the injured. Wisnel Occilus, a 24-year-old student, was wedged between two other survivors in a truck bed headed to a police station. He was

### STATE TRIES TO COME TO GRIPS WITH CASH WOES

## Public asked for money-saving ideas

HELENA (AP) — Gov. Brian Schweitzer said Wednesday he wants ideas from the public on how the state can save money without reducing services, and he promises to implement the plan that gets the most votes.

Schweitzer said ideas will be collected over the Internet through the end of March, then four finalists will be put up for a public vote on the state Web site. The person who submitted the top vote-getter will receive a palladium coin worth \$400 donated by

Montana's Stillwater Mine, Schweitzer said.

There are some catches. The idea has to be something the governor can actually implement, and a committee of legal and budget staff sifting out the top choices will be looking for plans that save money without reducing services.

“We'd like to cut the cost of delivering the current services we have,” Schweitzer said.

All of the submissions will be publicly posted under the initiative called the

Montana Accountability Partnership, he said.

The Democratic governor said he wouldn't be surprised if someone came up with an idea to save several million dollars or more.

Republican Senate President Bob Story of Park City said he likes the idea of involving citizens who are watching all the time, but issues could arise if not enough information on the proposed cut is provided for the public vote.

(More **Ideas**, Page A10)



Gov. Brian Schweitzer asks for ideas to help state save money

## Budget office pay raises canceled

HELENA (AP) — The Schweitzer administration has canceled pay raises awarded to 14 employees in the governor's budget office, saying the decision sends a message to the rest of government in the face of declining revenue.

“These are tougher times,” Gov. Brian Schweitzer said Tuesday. “We're going to ask you to do more and pay you the same.”

Budget Director David Ewer authorized the pay hikes that totaled nearly

\$48,000 after he decided to assign the duties of an assistant budget director to other staffers, rather than hire another person. Ewer said the reorganization would save the state \$45,000 a year.

Last Friday, Schweitzer ordered executive branch agencies to outline ways to cut their budgets by 5 percent because of declining state revenues.

Schweitzer said he and Ewer decided over the past five days to rescind the raises in the budget office.

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Local kiteskiers push sport to new heights in valley  
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