



GOLDMAN SACHS CEO ADMITS TO 'IMPROPER' DEALS / PAGE 2A

TODAY'S WEATHER



Scattered light showers in the region

Complete forecast / 10C

Billings Gazette

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2010

©2010 The Billings Gazette 124th year, No. 257

LOCAL EDITION



CLOSING THE GUN GAP

Group wants assault rifle fans, traditional gun owners to find common ground **1B**



FULL OF CHEER

Center Derrick Wright enjoying life at Montana State Billings **1D**

ELEVATED CO LEVELS

Investigators probes high carbon monoxide at Signal Peak mine **1C**

Feds have until April to resolve dispute over courthouse bids

Rehberg meets GSA officials but gets no new information

By ED KEMMICK Of Gazette Staff

The stalemate over construction of a new federal courthouse in downtown Billings may not be resolved until April.

Michael Golden, an attorney

To hear Rep. Denny Rehberg's Wednesday conference call about the new federal courthouse, click the streaming audio player inside this story on billingsgazette.com

ney with the General Accountability Office in Washington, D.C., said the agency has 100 days, or until April 21, to resolve a protest filed Monday by one of the unsuccessful bidders on the

courthouse project. The General Services Administration awarded a \$59.4 million contract in December to Mortenson Construction of Minnesota to design and build a 146,742-square-foot courthouse at Second Avenue North and North 26th Street.

Sletten Construction of Great Falls filed a protest with **Please see Dispute, 8A**



Sletten Construction of Great Falls submitted this design for the federal courthouse in Billings. The company has just completed work on a federal courthouse in Great Falls.

A CRUSHING CATASTROPHE



Thousands feared dead in Haiti

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — 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 7.0 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.

People search Wednesday for survivors under the rubble of a collapsed building the day after an earthquake hit Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The magnitude 7.0 quake flattened the president's palace, the cathedral, hospitals, schools, the main prison and whole neighborhoods.

In Billings, native Haitian can't contact his family

By SUSAN OLP Of The Gazette Staff

Like many others around the world, Billings resident Emmanuel Romulus could only wait and worry Wednesday, hoping to hear from Haiti that his family is safe.

Romulus, 30, a native of the country rocked by a powerful, magnitude 7.0 earthquake Tuesday, spoke with his mother just two hours before the temblor struck. He lives in Billings with his wife, Betsy, and newborn daughter.

"I was on a lunch break, maybe it was 1:20 or 1:30, and she was very good at the time," Romulus said Wednesday.

Since then, he has been unable to reach his mother or the rest of his family.

Romulus wasn't the only one in Billings who expressed concern the day after the violent quake claimed



BOB ZELLAR/Gazette Staff

Emmanuel Romulus is waiting to hear from friends and family in Haiti. Romulus is shown on the job at Tech-Time Inc. in Billings.

thousands of lives. Art Mulkey, a local businessman and member of St. Bernard Catholic Church, is set to make his 15th trip in March to aid the people of the poor country.

Mulkey, who owns a construction company, knows firsthand how flimsy the buildings are in the

nation of 9 million people. "Most of the construction is unreinforced cinder block," he said. "It's not very stable."

Relief organizations from around the world scrambled Wednesday to get supplies and aid to people in the devastated country. The epicenter of the quake was about 10 miles from Port-au-Prince, the country's capital.

Romulus' mother, his sister, brother-in-law and their two children reside in the southern Port-au-Prince neighborhood of Fontamara. They live in a two-story house.

"That worries me quite a bit because I heard most two-story houses were flattened," Romulus said.

Romulus moved to Billings in 2001 to study computer science at Rocky Mountain College, graduating in 2005. Now a U.S. citizen, Romulus works for Tech-Time Inc.,

a software company.

"I don't know what's going on, and I'm very worried," he said, unable to reach his mother, with communication in and out of Haiti nearly impossible. "But I have to work, and there's nothing I can do. There are no flights going there?"

Romulus has been working to

Please see Family, 8A

Haitian President Rene Preval says he has been stepping over dead bodies, **10A**

When it comes to natural disasters, the little island of Haiti seems to have a bull's-eye, **10A**

For the latest information on the 7.0 quake that struck Haiti, visit billingsgazette.com/news/world



Officials in Haiti say that up to one-third of the population of 9 million people may need emergency aid. Here, a woman seeks help Wednesday in Port-au-Prince.

Associated Press



24-HOUR NEWS AND WEATHER UPDATES AT WWW.BILLINGSGAZETTE.COM

INDEX

Comics7B, 3C Deaths8C Opinion4A TV4C
Classified ..4B, 6D Markets9A Outdoors1B Sports1D

COMING FRIDAY: Venture's one-acts, BST's 'Greater Tuna' offer feasts for audiences, actors. **Enjoy**



GREAT ROCKIES SPORTS SHOW

JANUARY 15-17 :: METRA PARK
It's a Sportsman Show, a Travel Show, a Boat & RV Show, an Outdoor Adventure Show!
SEE THE LIVE GRIZZLY BEAR SHOW!
FRI 1-8 :: SAT 10-6 :: SUN 10-4
ADULTS \$7 :: JUNIORS \$3 :: KIDS 5 & UNDER, FREE
For features/seminars visit GreatRockiesShow.com