



### Bald eagles

U.S. symbol plentiful now /Outdoors



Bar comes back to life in time for Circuit Finals rodeo /7A

### Schweitzer cancels office pay increases /1M

High temps result in flood warnings /1M

Thursday, January 14, 2010

Great Falls, Montana

www.greatfallstribune.com

75 cents

# Badger-Two Med motorized travel ban upheld

Judge denies injunction to lift ban until suit seeking to overturn it is settled

By KARL PUCKETT  
Tribune Staff Writer

Supporters of traditional use of the forest won the first round in a

### On the Front

Companies to release development leases /1M

legal battle over a ban on motorized travel in the Badger-Two Medicine area of the Rocky Mountain Front, which the U.S.

Forest Service implemented last fall.

U.S. District Judge Sam Haddon on Wednesday in Great Falls refused to grant an injunction sought by motorized user interests, which oppose the ban.

Had the injunction been granted, the ban would have been lifted until a lawsuit to overturn it is settled.

The ruling means motorized

vehicles will be prohibited while the legal challenge proceeds. The Forest Service implemented the ban Oct. 1 as part of a new travel plan.

"This travel plan was a landmark decision to protect a really important area for people and wildlife," Timothy Preso, an attorney for Earth Justice, said Wednesday afternoon. "Today's decision turned back an effort by

motorized interests to return to the day when you had heavy, heavy motorized use of the backcountry there."

Preso represents the Glacier-Two Medicine Alliance, the Montana Wilderness Association and the Wilderness Society, which have intervened in the case on the side of the Lewis and Clark National Forest.

The case isn't over as six more

claims remain in the lawsuit.

"While we were disappointed we weren't able to get a preliminary injunction, this doesn't decide the case," said Russ Chmoss, vice president of the Montana Trail Vehicle Riders Association, one of the plaintiffs. "We still think we have a very strong case."

See TRAVEL BAN, 5A

### Haiti quake: More images from tragedy at www.gftrib.com

## Tens of thousands feared dead; workers sift through rubble



An injured person is seen after the earthquake hit Haiti.



AP PHOTOS

Rescuers began the search of collapsed buildings in Haiti during the aftermath of Tuesday's magnitude-7 earthquake, the largest ever recorded in the area.

### First wave of help reaches poorest country in hemisphere

By JONATHAN M. KATZ  
Associated Press Writer

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 quake flattened much of the capital of 2 million people.

### On the Front

Survivors try to grasp scope of destruction /2A

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 multistory headquarters.

Preval said thousands of people were probably killed. Leading Sen. Youri Latortue told The Associated Press that 500,000 could be dead, but conceded that nobody really knows.

"Let's say that it's too early to give a number," Preval said. Police officers turned their pickup trucks into ambulances to carry the injured.

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

In Petionville, 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.

If there were any organized efforts to distribute food or water, they were not visible.

## Medical marijuana providers City officials request more time to look at complex zoning issues

By KRISTEN GATES  
Tribune Staff Writer

Great Falls City Commissioners will be asked at the next commission meeting to hold off on issuing zoning permits to providers of medical marijuana for 90 days.

Planning Director Mike Haynes and acting City Attorney Chad Parker told commissioners at Wednesday's agenda-setting meeting that there are two medical marijuana providers looking to set up shop in Great Falls, but that the city doesn't yet have a clear code, regulations or enforcement plan to deal with such businesses.

The Montana Medical Marijuana Act, passed in 2004, allows people to legally possess marijuana and grow it for medicinal purposes. Medical marijuana providers have gradually cropped up in other communities around the state during the past few years.

"We need a 90-day moratorium to provide where and when and how they would operate," Haynes said. "Obviously, we need to work with the police department."

Parker said there are gaps in the medical marijuana law and other city attorneys around the state are struggling with how to enforce and deal with the law, specifically when it comes to

building codes — such as how much space is needed and fire hazards.

Parker said communities such as Whitefish and Billings made similar rules while trying to iron out permitting issues for medical marijuana providers.

State law allows for six marijuana plants to be grown and one ounce of usable marijuana to be possessed per patient. But there are no limits on how many patients a provider can have, and Parker said neither he nor Haynes know how much space is required for growing operations and whether regulations allow for home-based businesses or if it must be restricted to commercial areas.

Those are just a few of the things the city needs to take into consideration, Parker and Haynes said. "We don't know how to regulate it," Parker said.

Enforcement also presents its own set of challenges, Police Chief Corky Coker said. He said the state Department of Health and Human Services has more regulatory authority over medical marijuana providers than law enforcement does.

But once growing operations are set up, Grove said there is a

See CITY, 5A

Today's question  
Weigh in on the topic.  
Details on 1M

## RED HORSE squadrons get notice to deploy

By RYAN HALL  
Tribune Staff Writer

Airmen from two mobile construction squadrons stationed in Great Falls will deploy to locations throughout Southwest Asia in the fall.

Maj. Rick Anderson, spokesman for the Montana Air National Guard, said "just over 100" Airmen with the 219th Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers, or RED HORSE, will be mobilizing in support of the Overseas Contingency Operation.

"They'll go to one country, they'll do their work there, then they'll go to another country," Anderson said.

"The 219th RED HORSE Squadron is a shining example of the Montana National Guard's support of our nation's war-fighting efforts overseas," Montana Adjutant General Brig. Gen. John Walsh said in a press release from the Montana National

Guard. "This group of airmen is the best in the business of combat engineering and their previous deployment history will serve them well."

The active-duty 819th RED HORSE Squadron will be deploying in conjunction with the MANG RED HORSE unit.

The units last jointly deployed in 2005, when they were sent to Iraq, Qatar and Afghanistan. This is the third full-unit mobilization for the 219th since 2002. The 819th most recently was deployed from March to October 2009, with 243 members working in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Tech Sgt. Marcus McDonald, a spokesman for Malmstrom Air Force Base, where the 819th is based, said it is unknown how many members of the unit will be participating in the upcoming six-month deployment.

Both RED HORSE squadrons are mobilized construction units trained to build or repair the facilities needed in a deployed location.



## Cascade native fears many friends died in earthquake

By TRAVIS COLEMAN  
Tribune Staff Writer

Cascade native Annie Nylund felt huge the last time she heard from the mayor of a destitute borough in the Haitian capital city of Port-au-Prince. The mayor was excited about the construction of a new clinic there.

Nylund's nonprofit Project 81 previously provided food, medi-

cine and other assistance to people in Haiti. During visits, she befriended the mayor of the Delmas District.

The mayor last spoke to Nylund and her husband by phone Tuesday afternoon before a magnitude-7 earthquake crumbled the city,

killing an unknown number of residents there, and perhaps many of the friends Nylund had made.

"We don't know if any of them are alive or dead," Nylund said, adding she hasn't heard whether the Delmas mayor survived.

Nylund's group and other Montana-based organizations were trying Wednesday to get help to the devastated country as recovery efforts continued there.

Because of the initial chaos, the Red Cross of Montana will not be sending volunteers to Haiti yet, but rather will focus its efforts on raising money to send to victims of the earthquake, said

See QUAKE, 5A

### Great Falls forecast

High: 45° - Low: 35°

Mild with southwest winds

Full weather report on back page

### Rodeo queen contestants

Coming up



### FRIDAY:

Profiles of rodeo and teen rodeo queen contestants.

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A Gazette newspaper  
No. 246, Vol. 125

