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Catching up with Conrad

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No KIDDING:

BIKE BEATS

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SUNDAY INDEPENDENT RECORD

MAY 20, 2007 ■ HELENA, MONTANA ■ VOL 63, No. 152 ■ WWW.HELENAIR.COM ■ ONE DOLLAR AND FIFTY CENTS

Common cause

3,900 rally in fight against breast cancer

By EVE BYRON
IR Projects Editor

Nancy Schweitzer was in awe as she stood in a cherry-picker bucket raised high above the crowd gathered to Race for the Cure Saturday morning.

"It was just a sea of people, all working for one cause," Montana's

first lady said moments after finishing the race herself. "This is one of my favorite races."

Almost 3,900 people joined Schweitzer

INSIDE

● Complete race results in our special insert / **Inside**

● More race day photos / **8A**

under cloudy skies for the 13th annual Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure in Helena, which raises

More **CAUSE**, page 8A

Eliza Wiley IR Staff Photographer

Cancer survivors and friends boogied to The Village People's 'YMCA' after the race.



A time to heal

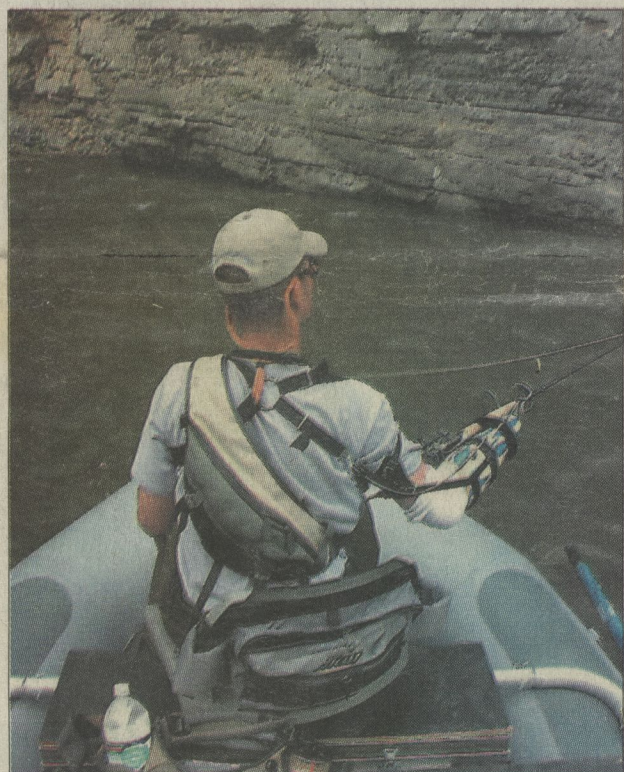


Photo by Edward Nachtrieb

J.R. Salzman works a San Juan worm as he floats the Smith River.

By MARTIN J. KIDSTON
IR Features Writer

ULM — The last boat drifted around the last bend on the Smith River when the film crew lowered the boom over J.R. Salzman's head. The wounded soldier stood in waders on the river's bank, talking about his prosthetic arm and how his father built the device to help him grip and cast a fishing rod.

Salzman held his arm at a right angle from his body, clutching the fishing rod in a titanium claw where his hand once was. A roadside bomb severed his arm from the elbow down. It also took the thumb and index finger from his left hand, which he covers with a woolen mitten.

"It was December 19, 2006, at 22:17 — I remember the moment like it was yesterday," Salzman said. "But it's a new life now. Each task you learn teaches you to be more independent."

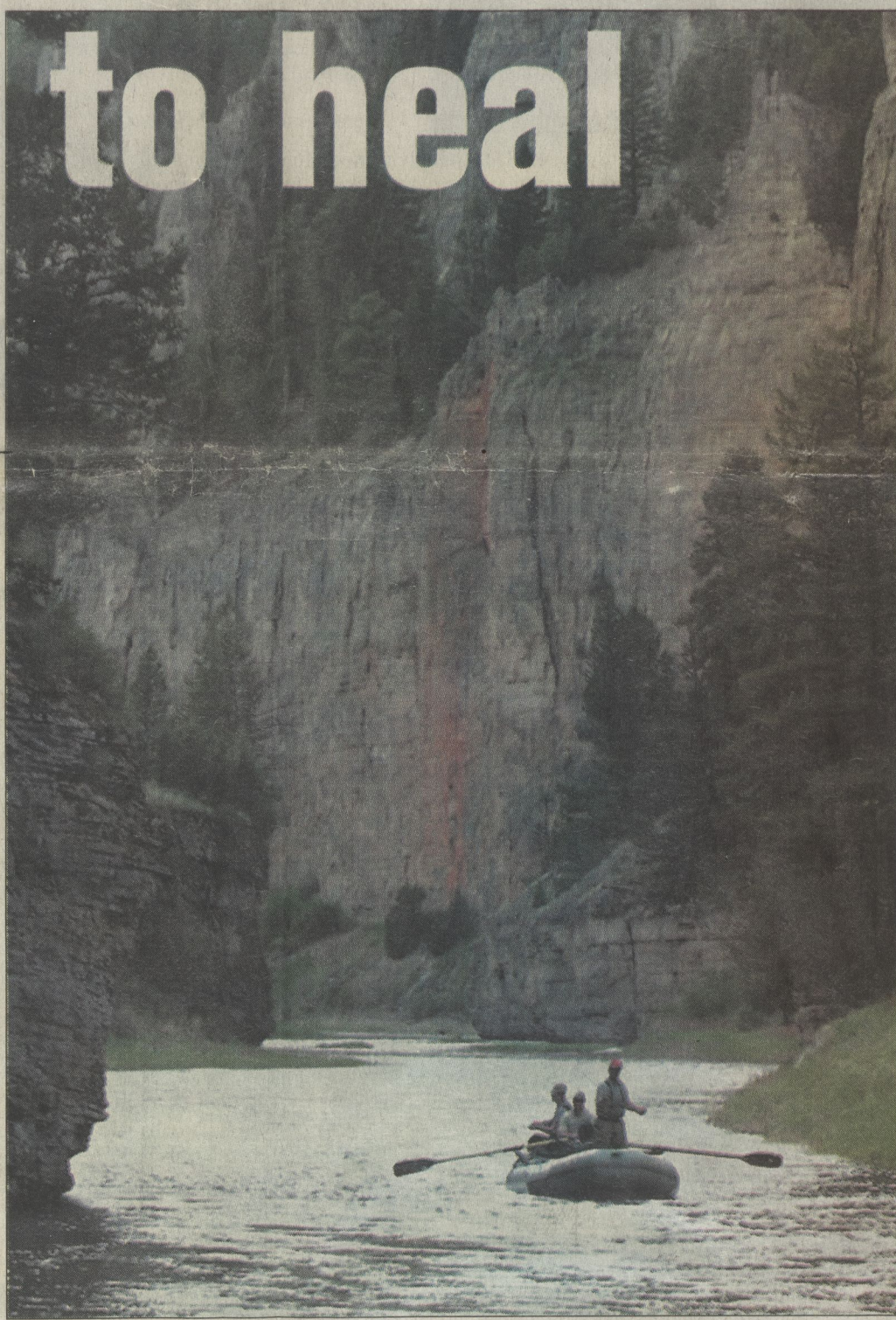
Salzman, a former member of the Minnesota National Guard, was one of eight combat veterans selected to participate in this year's Smith River trip. The float, arranged through the Wounded Warrior Disabled Sports Project, works in partnership with Disabled Sports USA.

The unique collaboration takes combat veterans down the Smith River to soothe their minds, build their confidence, and reinvigorate their love for life. Mike Geary, owner of Lewis and Clark Expeditions, a guide company based in Helena, helped arrange the trip three years ago after watching an HBO special

More **HEAL**, page 7A

George Lane IR Staff Photographer

A modified fly reel, left, allowed Dave Folkert, right, to take up slack line by squeezing a lever.



One of the rafts winds along through the canyon of the Smith River.

Photo by Edward Nachtrieb



Helena man killed by lightning

By EVE BYRON
IR Projects Editor

A Helena man died Friday afternoon after being struck by lightning while fishing on Canyon Ferry Reservoir.

Few details of the incident, including the man's name, were available on Saturday.

Broadwater County Sheriff Brenda Ludwig said onlookers watched as the man caught a fish about 3:20 p.m. Friday, "and the next thing they knew, he was struck" by lightning.

The man was alone in his boat near the east shore of Canyon Ferry, across from the Silos.

"It's just a tragedy," said Ludwig, who wanted to be sure all of the relatives had been notified before she released the man's name. "The weather can come on you so quickly. You really have to be careful."

A storm involving rain and hail had moved through the Townsend area only minutes before the incident took place.

Various Web sites offer safety suggestions for approaching lightning storms. They note that an average of 80 fatalities and 300 injuries can be attributed to lightning every year. Most incidents take place when people are outdoors during the afternoons and evenings.

Lightning strikes aren't necessarily accompanied by heavy rain, and can occur up to 10 miles away from any rainfall.

If people are outside, they should seek shelter. That includes getting off of a lake or any body of water when weather becomes threatening. Large cumulous clouds signify the beginning of a thunderstorm, with lightning becoming more possible as the clouds become darker and more anvil-shaped.

Graphite fishing rods are

More **LIGHTNING**, page 8A

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Today

Much cooler, thunderstorms likely

65 38

Precipitation: 20% Complete weather 2A



Air quality: 447 - 1644

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Heal

continued from 1A

disabled veterans.

"I contacted HBO and told them we could raise the money if they could send us veterans," Geary said. "This helps build a bridge to get them back. The therapy gets them started, but it's what they do after that that counts."

Geary tugged the rafts from the water, the rubber skins glistening in the warm May light. Stoneflies and San Juan worms worked magic in the tumbling water. So did the mayflies, cadis flies and wooly buggers.

After finding his land legs, Dave Folkerts, an Army engineer from Nebraska, packed his rod and reel. It was 2005 when shrapnel from an IED punctured his left arm, severing vital nerves and leaving his hand partially paralyzed.

"With the sun at his back and the dark waters bubbling past, Folkerts looked strangely at his hand, as if it was both part and foreign to his body. He can move the hand slightly, but not enough to use it."

"Trips like this allow you to realize that what happened in the past..." Folk paused to collect his thoughts.

"The first year I went through a lot of depression," he continued, wiggling his fingers. "Then I realized that I'd be stuck with this for the rest of my life. You can't change what happened. Now I know I love living life."

The chatter on the bank rang loud and spirited, the camaraderie strong. Dogs roamed the under-

brush, soaking wet with wagging tails. The sun pushed high into the blue Montana sky. Like the last day of summer camp, the men lingered to savor the moment.

The Smith River is prized among outdoor enthusiasts, and permits are hard to get. Montana FWP awards a limited number of permits to float the river each year through a lottery system. Winners often boast about their permit as if they'd won the Powerball drawing.

This year, Geary's flotilla included nine boats and around 20 people. FWP waived the \$1,500 recreation fee for the annual vet trip. Park Avenue Bakery donated bread and treats, and the Sanders House Bed and Breakfast donated lodging before and after the trip. Without donations like that, Geary said, the trip wouldn't be possible.

"We pay for their plane tickets — we pay for everything," added Trapper Badovinac, an avid Montana fly fisherman and author of two books on the topic. "Geary and I go around during the winter and try to get fly-fishing clubs to sponsor a veteran for the trip. Geary hits up the East Coast guys and I hit up the West Coast guys."

Badovinac, who served in the Navy between 1968 and 1972, wanted to create a more positive atmosphere for today's veterans than his peers faced after Vietnam. He helped raise \$20,000 for the trip before manning the oars — navigating the currents and pausing where the water fell slack.

Down by the river, Rob Creel, a member of Trout Unlimited and a longtime river guide, gazed at the cold, fast water through dark sunglasses. He donated his time as a



George Lane IR Staff Photographer

Three of the Trout Unlimited rafts make their way to the Eden Bridge takeout on the last of five days of camping and fishing on the Smith River.

guide to take the men down the winding river.

"The way I look at it, they've given life and limb, so the least I can do is donate my time," Creel said. "We had a blast. It's just a worthwhile program."

The veterans staged their gear in the shade of a cottonwood tree, ready to roll home after logging 60 miles on the swollen river.

T. J. Smith, from Plentywood, only caught one fish during the five-day float. The former soldier with the 1-163rd Infantry Battalion, Montana National Guard, grinned and shook his head, thinking more about the friends he made than the fish he didn't land.

"I feel like I'm leaving some really good friends," he said. "Even though I got wounded, there were guys on this trip who were wounded worse than I was. I thought I got hit bad, but I was fortunate. It was humbling to be here with these guys."

Smith pulled aside his T-shirt, revealing the shrapnel scars he received in the war. He still carries flakes of metal under his skin.

Yet like the others, Smith saw fishing the river and floating its canyons as a way to soothe his mind. Those who came before him know the river's power to mend even the deepest wounds.

"It helps you get more familiar with your prosthesis," said Derrick Hurt, a 29-year-old veteran from Missouri. "It makes you realize you can still do anything you want. Going down the river is therapeutic. It's a good confidence booster."

Hurt served as a scout sniper in Iraq until he was ambushed and wounded on Sept. 13, 2003. The grenades landed on the floorboard of his Humvee. He spent 13 months recovering from his wounds at Walter Reed.

But in 2005, Geary invited Hurt on the first Smith River float. Hurt was hooked and has returned every year since, helping lead the trip while seeing other wounded veterans through the voyage.

"I wasn't sure if I was going to like fly fishing, being on the river, or rowing a boat," Hurt said. "But we caught loads of fish."

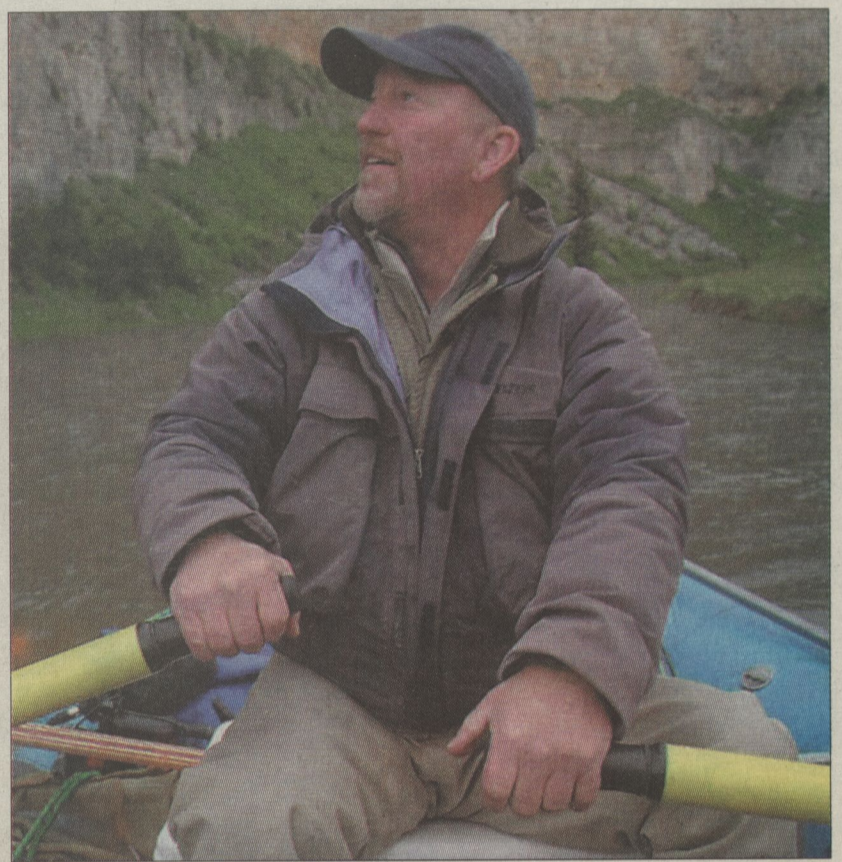


Photo by Edward Nachtrieb

Helena outfitter Mike Geary was a driving force behind the event.

The scenery, the people, and just being outdoors on the river — it's beautiful."

The trip wasn't all fishing and floating. At night, the men sat around the campfire drinking beer. Dinners included steak, fish, pork loins and ribs. They tasted different wines, told stories, and talked about their experience in the war.

Their part in that war changed lives, including their own. History will view their deeds in its own light, and their experience will undoubtedly shape a generation, just as the river shaped the land.

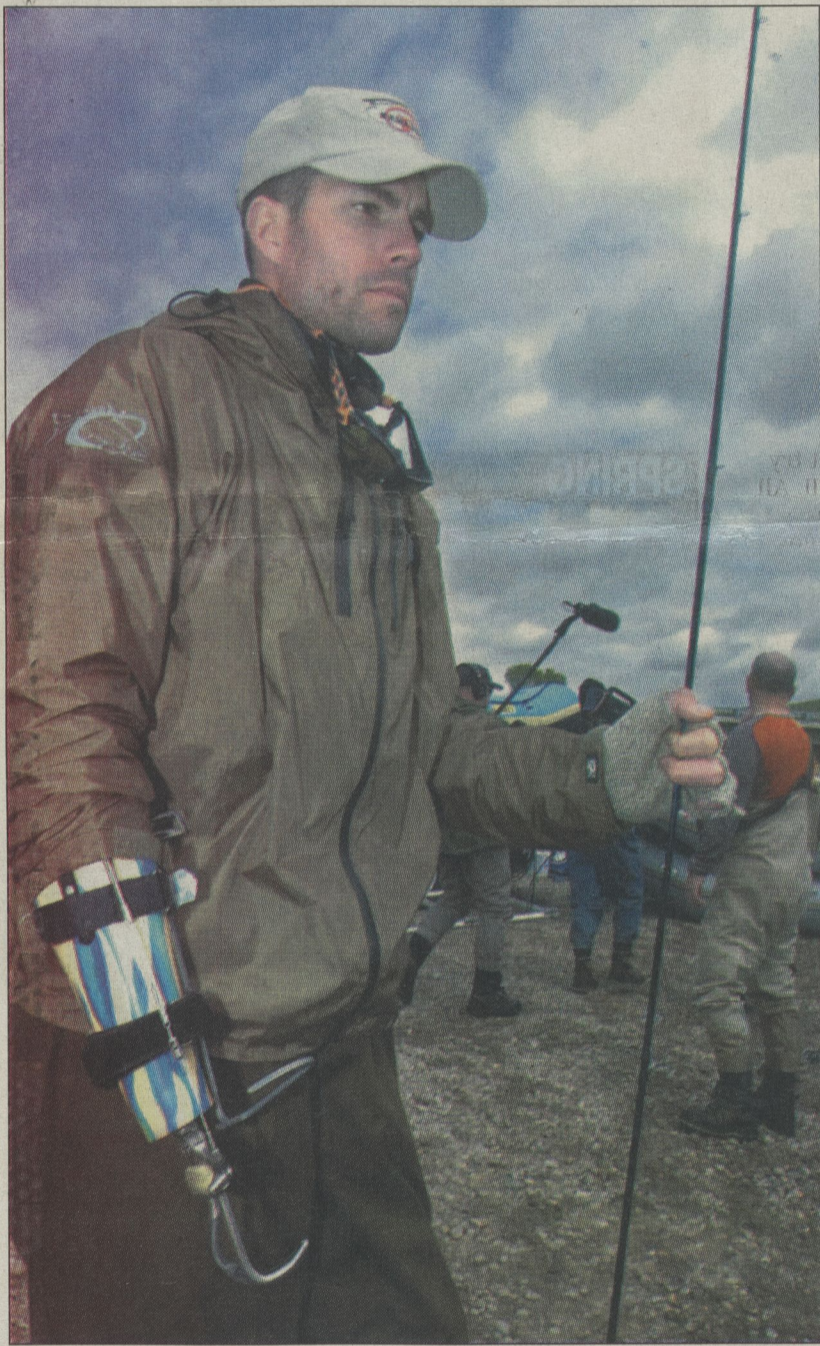
"Something as simple as taking a few guys down the river can be such a beautiful thing," said filmmaker Ed Nachtrieb, who documented the trip on high definition cameras. He hopes to air the film on HBO. "In general, the past five days showed the resiliency of the human spirit."

Reporter Martin Kidston can be reached at 447-4086, or at mkidston@helenair.com



George Lane IR Staff Photographer

T.J. Smith of Plentywood was the only veteran from Montana on this year's trip.



George Lane IR Staff Photographer

The Smith River float trip was JR Salzman's first experience with fly fishing.



George Lane IR Staff Photographer

The group included guides, disabled vets and a documentary crew on the five day trip.

Eagle's egg missing at Illinois zoo

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. (AP) — One of two eggs laid by a bald eagle at a central Illinois zoo is missing and authorities think the culprit could be a raccoon or a human.

The discovery was made Friday afternoon at Miller Park Zoo in Bloomington, where attendance has been up since an eagle named Beauty laid eggs for the first time in her 13 years at the zoo.

No broken egg shells were found, zoo director John Tobias said, and both eggs appeared intact Thursday.

Beauty laid the eggs during a brief visit from a wild eagle that perched in trees over the enclosure for four days in late April. If the remaining egg is fertile, it could hatch around Memorial Day.

A captive male eagle named Mathata has been helping incubate the eggs. Neither eagle can fly because of injuries they suffered before their captivity.

Raccoons live nearby but haven't been spotted in the exhibit, Tobias said. His only other theory is that a human stole the egg.

Cause

continued from 1A

money for breast cancer screening, treatment and research. Among the participants were 300 breast cancer survivors.

Shawn Loy, 15, said the weather was perfect for running, with only a few raindrops falling as if to keep racers cool. The Montana City resident said she's run in the race every year for the past five years, in memory of a family friend.

The theme of this year's event is to teach women and others to be advocates for their own health, noted Trudy Phippen, as the Mount Helena All Star cheerleaders chanted "I am the cure."

"This is the rallying cry for the Race for the Cure," said Phippen, who sits on the Susan G. Komen race committee. "The bottom line is that we want to eradicate this disease."

Cindy Minniear, executive director of the race in

By The Numbers

- 4,000 participants
- 304 survivors
- 98 'spirit' runners
- 1 mile racers: 719
- 5K racers: 2,862
- 109 participants on State of Montana team (largest team)

Montana, said they also want people to know that the effort to raise awareness about breast cancer isn't just a one-day event. "This is more than just a race," Minniear said. "We have stuff going on all year. We gave out more than \$150,000 in grants, which pay for things like early screening, education, or helping women who can't afford to pay for their

care." She added that 75 percent of the money raised through the race stays in Montana — the other 25 percent goes to the national organization and can only be used for grants.

With Melissa Etheridge's anthem "I Run for Life" — a song about the singer's own experience with breast cancer — blasting in the background, racers gathered at the starting line behind the Capitol at 10 a.m.

One group, dressed in hot-pink t-shirts with "girls on the go" written on the back, stood out from the crowd.

The 32 girls came to Helena from Townsend for Saturday's race. Lynne Arensmeyer said the group started with a bunch of grade schoolers who met three times a week for the past seven weeks to prepare for the race.

"Some of the girls couldn't get half a block without running out of breath, and now they're going to do a 5K," Arensmeyer said proudly. "They're very excited."

Race Day



Snowbirds pilot killed weeks before wedding

By MATT GOURAS
Associated Press Writer

GREAT FALLS — The Canadian Forces pilot killed in a Snowbirds jet crash during rehearsal for weekend performances at Malmstrom Air Force Base was to be married next month in Montreal, the unit's commanding officer said Saturday.

Capt. Shawn McCaughey, 31, of Candiac, Quebec, died when his jet — flying upside down in a four-plane formation — broke from the cluster of Snowbirds and hurtled 300 feet to the ground.

Maj. Robert Mitchell, who was flying lead plane in the formation, said a bridal shower had been scheduled for McCaughey's fiancée Saturday, which also is her birthday. He and other Snowbird pilots had planned to attend the couple's June 9 wedding.

McCaughey's fiancée, whom Mitchell declined to identify, and family members were still in shock and looking for an explanation, he said.

"We just had to say we don't entirely know, which is tough for a family member," Mitchell said. "They want to know for closure."

McCaughey's father, Ken, told The Canadian Press his son had dreamed of becoming a pilot since he was a little boy. When McCaughey joined the Snowbirds two years ago, he described it as "the best job in the world," his father said.

Ken McCaughey did not immediately return a message left by The Associated Press at his Candiac home Saturday.

The team had been in the air for about 45 minutes when the crash occurred, said Mitchell. McCaughey

made no radio contact and didn't indicate he was having trouble, he said.

McCaughey, the only person in the single-engine jet, did not eject. He was the sixth Snowbirds pilot killed in a crash since 1972, the year after the team was formed.

"Shawn was a professional officer, talented pilot and dear friend," Mitchell said. "Our team is devastated, and we will miss him."

Malmstrom crews worked late into the night combing the crash site for debris, and resumed early Saturday before the public began arriving at the base for the open house and air show, said U.S. Air Force Capt. Elizabeth Mathias, a base spokeswoman.

A Canadian Forces flight safety team arrived Saturday afternoon to investigate the crash, but would not comment to the media. Snowbirds team members, who spent Friday night at Malmstrom, planned to remain there "indefinitely" to help with the investigation, Mitchell said. He said the team had not decided when to resume flying.

The Snowbirds perform high-speed, low-altitude maneuvers in nine Canadair CT-114 Tutors and are part of the Canadian Air Force. The team had been scheduled to perform Saturday and Sunday at Malmstrom and at an air show in British Columbia on Wednesday.

In a statement Saturday, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper called McCaughey "a positive role model and goodwill ambassador who truly personified the professionalism and dedication of all the women and men who make up our Canadian Forces."



Photos by the one and only Eliza Wiley, IR Staff Photographer



Lightning

continued from 1A

excellent conductors of electricity, so they shouldn't be used if lightning is suspected to be in an area.

Don't go under any tall, isolated object including a tent or tree. It's safer, if caught outside, to stand under a group of trees that's shorter than others in

the area, and seek low ground like a ditch or gully. Don't lie flat on the ground, but stay low.

Once inside a structure, stay away from the windows and turn off all electrical appliances, including televisions and radios. Also, don't take a bath or shower, and don't do the dishes until the storm passes due to the possibility of electrocution. In addition, don't talk on the telephone because electricity can pass through it.

Lottery Numbers

- MT Cash: 4-6-16-17-24
- Wild Card: 9-13-15-16-25, king of diamonds
- Hot Lotto: 2-20-22-29-32, hot ball 5
- Powerball: 3-19-21-26-45, powerball 2, power play 2

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MONDAY, JUNE 25, 2007

Foundation to use fly-fishing to help war wounded

"Fishing is a solace ... the opposite of war, a ... gentle, and healing occupation."

Warriors & Quiet Waters Foundation, Inc. (W&QW) is a new Bozeman foundation. We created W&QW to improve the lives of severely injured American servicemen and women. We recognize our debt to these wounded warriors and hope this project earns your support.

People in the greater Yellowstone region and beyond are blessed with inspirational natural beauty and unusually accessible recreational riches. The Warriors and Quiet Waters Foundation will help share this marvelous natural endowment with wounded warriors. Grievously injured American military personnel struggle to adjust to fundamentally altered lives. They must learn new skills, new enjoyments, and experiences that reveal to them that life is still worthwhile and satisfying. We welcome your support as we work to address their needs. Surely they deserve all we can give-and more.

America is at war. Alas, we see no

Our vision is to provide solid therapeutic experiences while cooperating with military hospitals and the services. — Warriors & Quiet Waters Foundation Inc.

near-term end to sacrifice and trauma. As in all past conflicts, there are numerous casualties. Today, however, modern medicine saves lives that only a decade ago would have been lost. The "signature" battle wound of this conflict (because of body armor protecting the trunk during "IED" explosions) is the so-called TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury). Further, rapid evacuation, stabilization and improved techniques produce great traumatic loss of extremities, i.e., missing arms and legs. Post Traumatic Stress Disorders compound this mix of injuries. Before we conclude this war, we will have responsibility for thousands of young men and women suffering from these terrible afflictions. They surely deserve our help.

We are not alone in our efforts. Across the U.S., groups of generous, concerned citizens, businesses, corporations, the Services and veterans demon-

strate their willingness to reinvigorate and sustain disabled vets. One remarkable organization that all Montanans can understand is Project Healing Waters. PHW just began its third year of teaching fly-fishing and fly-tying to the wounded soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen from Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

Folks intuitively understand the liberating power and the peace of mind fostered by fly-fishing Montana waters. With a great deal of volunteer support, Mike Geary of Helena took a group of disabled Iraq and Vietnam War veterans down the magnificent Smith River. Mike had financial support from the private sector and a waiving of fees by the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department. Project Healing Waters has set a high standard, one we will work hard to meet.

W&QW Foundation is promoting a

similar program to focus on trout fishing in the greater Yellowstone/Missouri headwaters region of Montana. We, here in the Gallatin, Paradise and Madison valleys, with our Missouri and Yellowstone river drainages — only short distances from Yellowstone and Glacier Parks — can offer many kinds of trout fishing, big rivers like the Yellowstone, spring creeks and ponds accessible to the most severely injured. Already, without any fanfare or salesmanship, private landowners have offered their facilities for use in our programs. In sum, we can accommodate veterans suffering from a wide range of physical and mental disabilities.

You no doubt support the goals of our mission. However, W&QW Foundation requires money and "in-kind-contributions," transportation, housing, meals and more. We also need

instructors, guides and fishing gear. We hope our W&QW inaugural project will bring some recovering sailors and marines, some from the Wounded Warrior Battalion, to Bozeman in late July.

Many of us have become flyfishers for life after experiencing the transforming power of fishing waters in the splendor of our region. Our vision is to provide solid therapeutic experiences while cooperating with military hospitals and the services. We hope to emulate in quality the success of Eagle Mount, an organization with which we will cooperate in every way.

Many of America's sons and daughters are paying a terrific price for guaranteeing our liberty and freedoms. Please help guarantee their future.

If you want to help, or if you want more information please call: 581-1715.

This piece was signed by Volney Steele, Bud Lilly, Eric Hastings, Pete Van Gytenbeek, Tom O'Connor, Bob Frey, Daryl Henning, Dave Kumlien and John Baden.



Ferraro's

Welcomes

Warriors & Quiet

Waters

Family Style Entrees:

- Chicken Marsala
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THANK



YOU

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(PLEASE CONTACT ERIC HASTINGS @ (406) 581-1715 FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW YOU CAN HELP.)

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