

Frontier Commuter shuts down flight operation

By PETER D. FOX
Gazette Regional Editor

Frontier Commuter airlines, serving Cody and Sheridan, Wyo., abruptly shut down operations Monday after failing to renegotiate a lease for its aircraft.

The Denver-based commuter airline, serving 19 cities in six states, announced Monday night that it could not reach agreement with Frontier Airlines to extend the lease of 11 Convair 440 turboprops. The 50-passenger airplanes were leased to Frontier Commuter through a holding company.

There was no connection between the regional commuter service and Frontier Airlines, which serves much of the western United States.

Frontier Commuter "was unable to successfully complete negotiations with Frontier Holding on restructuring our relationship in a manner that permits us to continue to operate our airline with the high level of professionalism we demand," said spokeswoman Adrienne Mullinaux of Denver. "We have therefore decided to shut the company's operations down immediately. Whether or not we can commence operations and at what level is not determinable at this time."

Mullinaux said passengers holding Frontier Commuter tickets can either accept a refund or alternate transportation. "We intend to accommodate passengers on other airlines," she said.

The sudden action grounded two Wyoming-bound Frontier Commuter aircraft and stranded an unknown number of passengers in Denver, Mullinaux said.

Mullinaux emphasized the action was not a Chapter 11 filing under federal bankruptcy law, and that it was a "deliberate choice on the part of Nicholas Kondur," principal owner of the commuter airline since May.

"We have money; we intend to honor all our debts," she said. "The whole point is that the owner of the company has decided to assume an orderly closure of the company."

Jack Duggeby, chairman of the Cody-Park County Joint Airport Board, said Frontier Commuter's problems caught him by surprise. Flights operated normally Monday but he said he learned late in the day the airline office would be shut down at 5 p.m. and the airplanes would not return to Cody Tuesday.

The only indication that anything was amiss, Duggeby said.

(More on Frontier, Page 6A)

Billings Gazette



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Wind puts rangeland in danger

By JIM GRANSBERRY
Of The Gazette Staff

Developing wind-erosion conditions on the High Northern Plains could make last spring's dust storms look tame by comparison.

Wyoming, Montana and North Dakota lead the nation in wind-damaged acres for November and December, according to reports from the U.S. Soil Conservation Service.

The figures for the two-month period at the end of 1984 are a startling increase from the similar period of 1983.

In Wyoming, wind erosion damaged more than 1 million acres in 1984 compared to 20,000 in 1983. Montana suffered 711,000 acres damaged in 1984 compared to 50,000 acres for 1983. In North Dakota the figures are 328,119 and 53,176 respectively.

"There is no snow cover and it is extremely windy," said Lon Young, state resource conservationist with the SCS in Cheyenne, Wyo. "Even the natives are complaining about the wind and it blows here all the time."

"We've had a mild, open winter," he said. "A good snow cover is the only hope of preventing more erosion. Conditions are there for a return of blow-outs. We are not starting out too well for '85."

"Most of the damage is to rangeland in Wyoming," he said. "The range is overgrazed and the soils are sandy."

Loss of two tons of soil per acre per year is considered damaging to rangeland, according to SCS calculations. When blowing soil can be seen, the soil is eroding at a rate of at least 12 tons per acre. Significant loss of soil occurs when rates reach five tons per acre per year for most soils, says the SCS.

(More on Erosion, Page 6A)

Israel to pull soldiers out of Lebanon

JERUSALEM (UPI) — Israel's Cabinet Monday approved a plan for a three-staged withdrawal of Israeli troops from southern Lebanon that Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin said would begin in five weeks — with or without U.S. support.

Official Israeli television said the unity Cabinet debated the plan for 11½ hours over two days before 16 ministers voted for approval late Monday. Six ministers, including Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, were opposed.

Rabin said implementation of the first stage of the plan will begin in five weeks. Until then, he said, Israel will try to persuade Lebanon and the United Nations to agree on an orderly withdrawal to make sure no "riots, massacres or any other disturbances occur."

But Rabin said Israel would proceed with the plan "regardless of whether the United States or the Lebanese government or its army cooperate."

Rabin also warned that Israel would strike swiftly to eliminate any guerrilla cells that reemerge in southern Lebanon.

"We will not hesitate to enter (southern Lebanon) to eliminate any such efforts. We will maintain a mobile and aggressive defense system in order to ensure the safety of the settlers and the settlements in the north," Rabin said.

Israel invaded Lebanon in June 1982 to rout the Palestine Liberation Organization guerrillas attacking its northern border and forced the expulsion of PLO leader Yasser Arafat and his fighters from Beirut. Some 10,000 troops have remained in the country since the invasion.

According to a Cabinet statement read by Cabinet Secretary Yosef Beilin, the first stage of the plan calls for pulling Israeli Defense Force troops from front lines at the Awali river about 18 miles to the Litani-Nabatiyah areas.

The second stage would remove soldiers about 18 miles from the Bekaa Valley in eastern Lebanon to the Hasbaya area, the statement said.

"In the third stage the IDF will redeploy to the international border between Israel and Lebanon while maintaining an area in southern Lebanon where local forces — the South Lebanese Army — backed by the IDF will operate," the statement said.

In a policy change, Rabin said Israel would allow Lebanon's regular army to take over the area the Israelis will vacate either directly or from the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon.

Israel has lost 606 soldiers since invading Lebanon — 86 of them killed in guerrilla attacks by militant Shiite Moslems since pulling back from Beirut in September 1983 to what was intended to be a more secure line along the Awali river.



RABIN describes plan

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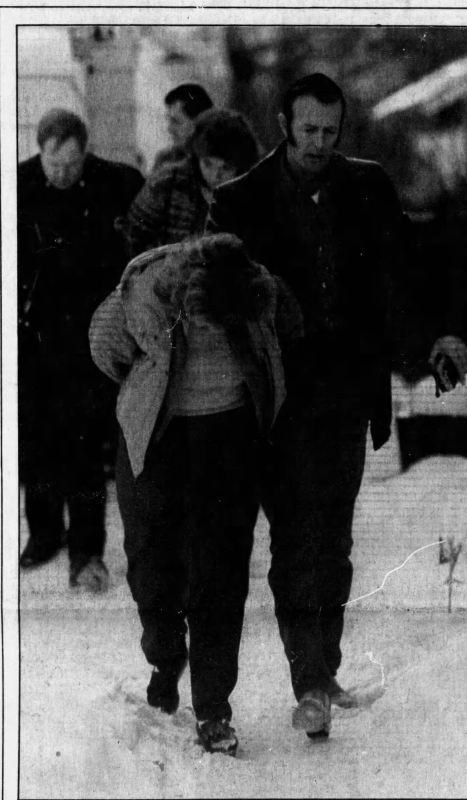
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Her head bowed, Patricia Rickard, also known as Patricia Danks, is led from her home at 215 Broadway Ave. by Billings Police Lt. Henry Fox Monday morning. Danks is jailed on \$1,000 bond on misdemeanor charges of soliciting for prostitution on Sunday.

Gazette photo by Larry Mover

8 arrested in raid on prostitutes

By RITA MUNZENRIDER
Of The Gazette Staff

Eight women were arrested on prostitution charges Monday as Billings police swept through a downtown motel and two private homes.

A convoy of local reporters and camera crews followed police on their rounds.

Carrying arrest warrants for 14 women, detectives and uniformed officers began their roundup at about 9:30 a.m. and finished an hour later. After nearly a week's undercover work on downtown streets, officers said they came up with enough evidence for 22 separate charges against the women.

By Monday evening, six of the 14 warrants had not been served. The eight arrested women — with bonds of at least \$1,000 each — were in custody at jails in Forsyth and Hardin because lawmen said the Yellowstone County jail had no room.

Police said most of the women in custody are believed to be part of an organized prostitution ring out of Rockford, Ill. Police say they have long known of the Rockford connection, which reportedly brings women into Billings and midwestern cities to work for short periods of time.

Police Capt. Tom O'Brien promised similar roundups in the future until prostitutes and pimps get the message that police will "keep after them until they understand that Billings isn't such an easy market."

Police said they had no warrants

No glamour in life of streetwalkers (5B)

for the arrest of pimps Monday because it is tough to build cases unless prostitutes testify against them.

O'Brien said police got tough with prostitution because of a recent increase in the number of sexual assaults, hug-and-mugs and stabbings involving the women, their clients and pimps.

Motels' roundup quickly turned into a media event. Print and broadcast reporters followed police from one location to another, filming the women as they weaved at the camera and shouted obscenities at police.

The first stop was the Uptown Motel, 1616 First Ave. N. Pounding on motel room doors while identifying themselves, police roused the women from their beds and told them to get dressed.

"Get your clothes on, I want to talk to you," one officer shouted into a motel room. The women emerged, looking as if they had just woken up and grabbed whatever clothes were handy.

One wore bedroom slippers, long underwear and a curler in her hair as she slid through the snow.

After only a few minutes, five women suspected of prostitution were handcuffed and led to a waiting Met transportation van for a ride to City Hall. A man also was taken into

(More on Arrests, Page 6A)

Senate rejects higher drinking age

By LYNN HORSLEY
The Associated Press

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — In defiance of a federal mandate, the Wyoming Senate on Monday defeated an effort to raise the state's minimum legal drinking age from 19 to 21.

Montana lawmakers will consider a similar measure during the current legislative session. The Senate voted 17-12 against the measure, which would have brought Wyoming into compliance with a federal law that seeks to establish a national minimum drinking age of 21.

Meanwhile Monday, Gov. Ed Herschler directed his attorney general to file briefs

supporting South Dakota in its effort to challenge the federal law.

The law threatens to withhold federal highway funds from any state that does not go along by 1986. Wyoming stands to lose \$4.5 million in highway construction funds in 1987 and \$9 million in 1988 if the federal government carries out its threat.

But the Wyoming Senate thumbed its nose at that possibility Monday, saying the state should not yield to a federal strategy that smacked of "blackmail" and infringement on states' rights.

Unless another bill is introduced quickly in the House, the Senate's action effectively rules out any chance of Wyoming changing its drinking age law this year, although it could still pass a law next year in

time to comply with the federal law.

Senators who argued against compliance were not merely taking a stand for state sovereignty. Most contended that raising the drinking age unfairly targeted 19-to-21-year-olds, when more alcohol-related accidents are caused by men aged 25 to 34.

If drunk driving is the problem, then the state should adopt stricter criminal penalties, and if teen drinking is the problem, the state should promote better education in schools and homes, they said.

Sen. Richard Larson, R-Albin, sponsor of the bill, had argued that while raising the drinking age was not a total solution, it has reduced fatalities and the incidence of teen alcoholism in other states.

But Larson conceded the proposal faced stiff opposition, especially after Herschler came out against it in his "State of the State" speech to the Legislature last week.

Herschler maintained the federal government has no business regulating the sale of alcohol, which has traditionally been under the state's domain.

Earlier Monday, Herschler said he had told the attorney general's office to draft a "friend of the court" brief in South Dakota's federal court case challenging the constitutionality of the federal law.

In his legislative address, the governor said standing up for states' rights is important enough to risk losing the federal highway funds.

inside FDA rates hair drugs as bald lies

(Two sections)

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outside

Cloudy, windy and chance of snow showers. Highs today and Wednesday are predicted to be 20 to 40, lows 5 to 15.

Weatherline
For 24-hour updated weather news, call Weatherline, 652-2000.

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Nostrums that promise to enhance the hairline and enliven the libido have run afoul of the federal government.

The Food and Drug Administration Monday proposed to ban the sale of all non-prescription drug products sold to prevent or reverse baldness. It called the products an "area of considerable consumer fraud," and said there is no scientific evidence that such lotions and creams work.

In a separate action, the FDA is seeking to halt the sales of drugs sold as aphrodisiacs without prescription, saying that such products have not been proven safe and effective.

It urged those suffering from "decreased libido and impaired sexual performance" to seek professional treatment rather than "self-medicate."

The proposals will be published in Tuesday's Federal Register and allow for public comment before final action is taken.

Thomas Loesch, whose Houston-based Loesch Laboratory Consultants produces a "hygiene regimen for people with oily scalps," said his company would fight the FDA action by submitting new data showing that their product works for a limited group of people who are losing their hair. But, he acknowledged, "there are a lot of quite unscrupulous individuals victimizing the public. That definitely hurts the market. They have to do something about that."

Dr. William E. Gilbertson, head of the FDA's over-the-counter drug-review program, said Monday the proposed ban is "due to a lack of demonstrated effectiveness of these products. None were found to be unsafe."

A recent FDA-sponsored review of

435 newspaper and magazine ads found that "hair-restoration schemes are next in popularity to diet hoaxes," says the agency's Roger W. Miller. While 249 were for diet products, 89 were for hair-restoration — 42 for products and 47 for clinics.

"The products contain active ingredients applied to the scalp, including natural amino acids, vitamin C, the B vitamins, sex hormones, lanolin, anti-microbial drugs and wheat-germ oil."

Miller said that while the proposed ban would apply to "all baldness-prevention aids sold as over-the-counter drugs until they are shown to be effective," it would not apply to prescription drugs, massage treatments, surgical hair transplants or treatment centers.

The action does not apply to a potentially promising drug called minoxidil that has been under testing by the Washington Hospital Center here.

Continued stories

Arrests

From Page One

One wore bedroom slippers, long underwear and a curler in her hair as she slid through the snow.

After only a few minutes, five women suspected of prostitution were handcuffed and led to a waiting Met transportation van for a ride to City Hall. A man also was taken into custody, but was held only briefly for questioning and later released.

O'Brien said one woman was caught trying to climb out the motel room window to escape arrest. "Somebody's going to be in trouble for this," one woman said to reporters as she was being placed in the van. "I'm glad you guys are here getting this."

Another shouted to a television reporter: "Come over here white woman, so I can spit on you!"

As they sat in the van waiting to be taken away, the screaming and cursing never stopped. Police officers ignored the protesters and drove to the next target: the Red Gables Motel, 1511 First Ave. N., but police said someone apparently tipped off the suspects. The rooms were empty.

Reporters joined a caravan of marked and unmarked police cars for a drive to the alley behind a house at 215 Broadwater Ave., where two more women were awakened.

A neighbor in the 200 block of Broadwater Avenue stood and watched the roundup with surprise, telling a reporter that his neighbors were quiet and apparently did not bring customers to the house. He declined to give his name.

"They're like vampires," he said. "They're gone all night and sleep all day."

With each stop, more reporters and detectives joined the roundup.

Police made their final stop at a South Side home. By this time, the media-police convoy was 13 cars long as it crept toward 2034 Riverside Drive.

About 15 people, armed with cameras, tape recorders and badges stood on the street and waited while four detectives, with reporters close behind, knocked on the door and announced the arrival.

They brought only one woman from the house.

After the arrests had been made, the prisoners were gathered in a city employee's coffee break room at City Hall and served copies of the charges against them.

As they waited to be taken to City Court, the women called themselves "hookers" and casually talked about streetwalking; the swearing and cursing at police officers never ended.

"They ain't got a case," one woman said, looking at her copy of the complaint. "I was out of town that day."

"What would you do if someone came into your house and woke you up with another angry woman asked an arresting officer. "Nobody let you in

Billings police declare war on streetwalkers

By RITA MUNZENBRIDER
Of The Gazette Staff

With pressure from downtown businessmen and an increase in muggings and stabbings, Billings police say they have made it their business to get tough on prostitution.

"We'll keep after them - hot and heavy," Police Capt. Tom O'Brien told reporters after the arrest of eight females allegedly working as prostitutes on downtown streets.

O'Brien and City Administrator Al Thelen said they've received several telephone calls recently from downtown business owners who complain about heavy prostitution activity on downtown streets. Businessmen told them prostitution is bad for downtown business.

Police have kept their own statistics on the number of assaults and thefts, and say they feel the problem has gotten out of control.

In the last seven months, 32 women were arrested on 45 separate charges, primarily for misdemeanor offenses, records show.

Owners and managers of the Sheraton and Northern hotels and the Ponderosa Inn have called for a meeting Tuesday afternoon

with Mayor Jim Van Arsdale to file a formal complaint about prostitution near their businesses, according to Matthew Casado, manager at the Northern.

Casado said the Northern has a security guard who keeps prostitutes out of the hotel, but they walk the streets surrounding the building.

He said he has complained to police regularly.

"I'm delighted that something has been done about it," Casado said late Monday afternoon.

"Prostitution deteriorates the image of downtown Billings, and that affects business.

O'Brien said law enforcement along Montana and Minnesota avenues - the areas known for prostitution - has been increased in the past six months. Last week, two detectives worked undercover, along with several reserve officers in uniform.

Many of the eight women arrested in Monday's roundup had previous records for prostitution arrests, he said.

Although this was the first major organized arrest of alleged prostitutes, O'Brien said more will come until prostitutes are convinced that the city won't tolerate their profession.

"We'll make sure they don't streetwalk," he said.

Volanda Taylor, 25, on two counts of soliciting for \$5 early in the morning of Jan. 10 and 11. The complaint said the encounters occurred at the corner of Montana Avenue and north 26th Street. Bond is \$2,000.

Kelly Reidy, also known as Michelle Reed, 24, on two counts of soliciting for \$5 at First Avenue North and north 28th Street on Jan. 11, and south 27th Street and Minnesota Avenue on Jan. 12. Bond is \$2,000.

Loretta Dillon, 22, for soliciting for \$50 on Jan. 11 in the 2700 block of Montana Avenue. Bond is \$2,000.

Valerie Martin, 23, for soliciting for \$50 on Montana Avenue between north 27th and 26th streets last week. Bond is \$2,000.

Anna Miller, 20, on one count of soliciting for \$50 and one count of sexual assault that reportedly occurred last week at Minnesota Avenue and South 26th Street. Bjerntness also ordered her to serve 30 days and pay a \$400 fine for failing to show up at a trial. Police said she was arrested on Oct. 29 for prostitution. Bond is \$1,000.

Patricia Rickard, also known as Patricia Danks, 19, for soliciting for \$50 last Sunday on north 26th Street between Montana Avenue and First Avenue North. Bond is \$2,000.

Connie Lopez, 24, on two counts of soliciting. Lopez was arrested Monday night at the Englebar Motel on Montana Avenue, police said. She was being held at Yellowstone County Jail on a \$2,000 bond.

Police said they arrested one man who gave his address as the Uptown Motel room where a prostitution suspect was arrested Monday morning.

James Paschal, 31, was charged with failure to carry a Montana license plates on his car, which bore Illinois plates. The car is registered to a woman in Rockford, Ill., police said.

"I didn't solicit him," a third said. "I didn't even see him last night," referring to the undercover officer listed in the complaint against her.

It was more of the same while they waited in the courtroom for the judge to set bond.

They joked with female reporters, saying at least the police gave the reporters time to put on their makeup that morning.

"Let's call this 'Happy Hookers go to Hollywood,'" one said as she smiled into a television camera.

"Close your mouths and sit down," City Judge Donald Bjertness told them as he called out to order.

Bjerntness then called on each one, reading the complaint and setting a bond of \$1,000 for each misdemeanor charge against her.

All must appear in City Court next Monday to plead to charges, Bjerntness ordered.

The following women were arrested for allegedly soliciting undercover police officers:

Wendy Wisner, 18, for soliciting sex for \$50 early Sunday morning on Montana Avenue between north 27th and 28th streets. Bond is \$2,000.

Denise Smyth, 30, for two counts of soliciting sex for \$100 and one count of sexual assault.

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Obituaries

LOCAL DEATHS

Charles William Brock, 73, Pahrump, Nev., formerly of Billings, died Wednesday, Jan. 9, LaGrange, Texas, formerly of Billings. Ruth J. Tweedie, 76, of 1301 Industrial Ave. James W. Heath, 68, Salem, Ore., formerly of Billings. Thurston L. Forehand, 81, Martinez, Calif., formerly of Billings.

AREA DEATHS

George Heiberg, 87, Sheridan, Wyo. Estelada Miller, 67, Musselshell. Ray L. Coggin, 74, Sheridan, Wyo. Fred B. Story, 83, Lewistown. Dallas Roberts, 77, Powell, Wyo. Hazel M. Lueck, 82, Powell, Wyo. Jennie L. "Jane" Peterson, 91, Pleasantwood. Elijah E. Phillips Jr., 53, Gillette, Wyo. Donald J. Malatt, 77, Greybull, Wyo. Raymond D. Neudeck, 70, Beach, R.D. Clyde Ewart McKeenan, 59, Douglas, Wyo.

Ceriel J. Codenys

Ceriel J. Codenys moved to the Billings area in 1941 and worked for construction firms and at Yellowstone Boys Ranch for many years before retiring to Bozeman in 1971. He enjoyed gardening and raising flowers.

Mr. Codenys, 89, died Sunday afternoon in Fayette County Hospital, LaGrange, Texas.

A son of Camille and Maria Codenys, he was born in Meulebeke, Belgium, and served in the Belgian military in World War I. In 1920 he came to the Huntley Project area, then moved to a Hardin farm. He married Martha Vandenberg on Nov. 30, 1922, in Ballantine; she died Nov. 2, 1973. He moved to LaGrange in 1978.

Survivors include a son, Don La Grange; three daughters, Mrs. Mary Groomes of 316 S. 32nd St., Mrs. Robert (Clady) Swoboda of 1058 Steffen Drive, and Mrs. Gary (Elise) Smith of Cody, Wyo.; 10 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and a great-great-grandchild.

Rosary will be recited at 6 p.m. Thursday in Smith Downtown Chapel, Mass. will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. Friday in St. Patrick's Cathedral with burial in Mountview Cemetery.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Friday in St. Patrick's Cathedral with burial in Mountview Cemetery.

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Estelada Miller

MUSSELHELL - Estelada Miller's life revolved around the care and loving that she gave her family. She enjoyed gardening and liked to sit on the banks of the Musselshell River and catch big catfish.

Mrs. Miller, 67, died Sunday evening of cancer in Billings St. Vincent Hospital.

A daughter of Elmer and Viola Ursey, she was born in Whittington, Ill., and grew up in the Benton, Ill. area. On May 5, 1944, she married Leo F. Miller in Roundup.

Survivors include her husband; two sons, Don of Fromberg and the Rev. Dean Miller of Colorado Springs, Colo.; four daughters, Mrs. Jack (Jo) Bothman and Mrs. Bill (Trina) Moore, both of Columbia Falls, Margaret "Peekey" Brown of Roundup and Mrs. Ed (Diana) Webb of Bally; 21 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday at Wier Chapel, Roundup, with burial in Musselshell Cemetery.

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Thurston L. Forehand

JOLIET - Thurston L. Forehand had worked 28 years for Exxon Oil Co. in Billings, retiring in 1960. He was mayor of Joliet, served on the Joliet School Board and was a vestryman at Our Savior Episcopal Church for many years.

Mr. Forehand, 81, died Sunday at his home in Martinez, Ga.

He was born in Cochran, Ga., and married Martha Smith on April 16, 1932, in St. Louis, Mo. In 1944 he moved to Billings and in 1947 to Joliet, where he operated a small ranch. His wife died in 1979. In 1981 he returned to Georgia and married Evelyn Jones.

Survivors include his wife; a daughter, Marietta Jackson of Casper, Wyo.; a son, Dick of Billings; a sister, Synnaga Gages of East Point, Ga.; and four grandchildren.

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