

## Two die in plane crash

McCOOK — A twin-engine private plane crashed during a snowstorm Wednesday, killing two people and injuring five others.

Authorities on the scene of the crash in a small canyon near the McCook Municipal Airport confirmed two deaths.

Five other people on board the plane, at least three of them males, were taken to McCook Community Hospital, said hospital spokeswoman Candy Crosby. Their conditions were not immediately known.

The plane carried six Nebraska Public Power District employees who were returning to Columbus from a business trip in Denver, said Ron Bogus, an NPPD spokesman.

The employees worked in the utility district's information services division and had been in Denver since Monday to look at computer software.

The plane crashed at 3:16 p.m. CST near the airport on the east side of the city, two blocks from the only hospital in the county.

Dale McNutt at the National Weather Service station at the airport said it was snowing heavily at the time of the crash.

The plane just missed some houses and a hospital. Rescuers used city snow removal equipment to get to the scene of the crash.

## Speech renews health disputes

WASHINGTON — The White House flashed compromise Wednesday on a key element of President Clinton's health care plan, but the president renewed his threat to veto any bill that doesn't provide coverage for all.

The Senate's top Republican said Clinton "doesn't have the votes" without major concessions. On the morning after his State of the Union message, Clinton hosted Democratic congressional leaders at the White House to review an agenda that featured health care and other domestic concerns such as welfare reform, a crime bill, environmental measures and a greater effort for worker retraining.

Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen suggested a compromise was possible on at least one controversial issue — health care reform — saying the White House was willing to expand the number of companies that would be permitted to self-insure rather than join huge regional alliances.

In remarks to groups representing major manufacturers and corporations, Bentsen acknowledged that many companies feel "the 5,000-employee threshold for joining regional alliances is too high."

"We hear you," he said. "We're willing to discuss this one and the other details of our plan."

The president, meanwhile, canceled a speech scheduled as a reprise of his State of the Union because of hoarseness. But the inevitable day-after predictions and reaction proliferated.

"I think we're going to pass major health care reform in this Congress and the public will support that indeed," an upbeat House Speaker Thomas Foley, D-Wash., said.

But Sen. Bob Dole, the Senate Republican leader, said on NBC, "Overall, his program is in trouble."

Dole said that Clinton was "going to have to drop a lot of these price controls, mandates, the mandatory health care alliances, before we make any real inroads."

White House Chief of Staff Mack McLarty countered, "It's very early to be counting votes."

At the same time, White House aide George Stephanopoulos said Clinton would not budge from his demand for coverage for every American.

"On that fundamental point we can't move," he told ABC. "Because if we don't have universal coverage, you'll never get the costs under control."

Clinton made health care the centerpiece of his second year in office during the State of the Union speech Tuesday night, calling upon lawmakers to join a "journey of renewal" for America. He vowed to veto any bill that did not "guarantee every American private health insurance that can never be taken away."

In the immediate aftermath of the speech, several Republicans accused Clinton of unusual partisanship, but Democrats gave him 60 ovations during his address — nearly one a minute.

Sources told NBC that Harding's legal strategy is to maintain she found out about the alleged conspiracy and got involved in a cover-up out of fear of Gillyooly and Shawn Eckardt, her 310-pound bodyguard. NBC reported Harding will point out that in divorce papers she accused Gillyooly of abuse.

Investigators would not comment on whether Gillyooly was trying to make a deal. Gillyooly's lawyer, Ron Hoever, said Gillyooly has not spoken to investigators.

Gillyooly, Eckardt and two other men have been charged with conspiring to injure Kerrigan.

Dec Dec Myers, the White House press secretary, said President Clinton had not decided whether to approve the deployment of Patriots but added, "I think we are looking favorably on the request."

Wisner said the request had been made by Army Gen. Gary Luck, the commander of U.S. forces in South Korea as part of a review of defense requirements in the area. Wisner noted that there currently were no air-defense requirements in South Korea and that a Patriot deployment had been considered for some time.

more time because it has subpoenas out all across the country, said FBI spokesman Bart Gori.

The U.S. Figure Skating Association has until Monday to submit the team roster to the U.S. Olympic Committee but can make substitutions until Feb. 21.

Sources told The Oregonian that Gillyooly was willing to admit his own role in the attack and testify Harding helped plan the assault as well as cover it up.

The report followed others Tuesday in the Detroit Free Press and on NBC that Gillyooly is trying to work out a plea bargain implicating Harding.

He said the move would be made as part of "sensible, rational defense preparations" in the event that North Korea would launch a Scud missile attack on South Korea. He said other defensive measures would be considered if the United States and its allies sought U.N. economic sanctions against North Korea.

Wisner said no final decision had been made on the Patriot deployment, but his comments describing the reason for the deployment appeared to leave little doubt that the administration was determined to go ahead once the details had been worked out.

Officials plan to send missiles to South Korea

WASHINGTON — The United States will send Patriot air-defense missiles to South Korea, a senior Pentagon official said Wednesday.

This announcement comes in response to North Korea's refusal to allow complete nuclear inspections.

Frank Wisner, the No. 3-ranking official at the Defense Department, told reporters at a breakfast meeting that details of the missile deployment had yet to be decided.

"We will proceed with the deployment," Wisner said. "It doesn't mean we're proceeding with it on a crash basis, that they have to be out there tomorrow morning."

Jury extends investigation of skating attack

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Meanwhile, The Oregonian newspaper Wednesday cited unidentified sources as saying Jeff Gillyooly was prepared to implicate his ex-wife Tonya Harding in the Jan. 6 attack.

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