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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2013

Five people killed in avalanche on Loveland Pass

One snowboarder survives massive slide

> By Ian Neligh Courant Editor

An event benefiting the Colorado Avalanche Information Center turned deadly on Saturday when a massive snow slide along U.S. 6 near the summit of Loveland Pass

killed four experienced backcountry snowboarders and a skier. One man survived.

The victims were ski veterans, guides and industry professionals, and the event's organizer, Joseph Timlin, was among the dead.

The victims are Ryan Novack, 33, of Boulder; Christopher Peters, 32, of Lakewood; Rick Gaukel, 33, of Estes Park; Ian Lamphere, 36, of Crested Butte; and Timlin, 32, of Gypsum.

The survivor, Jeremy Boulay, works for

Silverton's Venture Snowboards.

He partly dug his way out of the avalanche and was later rescued by other event attend-

The slide apparently was triggered by the six men about 1 p.m. as they made their way up a slope. The victims were participants in an event called the Rocky Mountain High Backcountry Gathering, which raises money to benefit the Avalanche Information Center.

"Apparently, they all had the proper

equipment on, the beacons, the shovels and the whole bit — so they were prepared," said Clear Creek Sheriff Don Krueger.

The Summit County Sheriff's Office and the Evergreen-based Alpine Rescue Team also were at the scene.

Krueger said the avalanche occurred above and outside the Loveland Ski Area near the Sheep Creek drainage. The avalanche

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"They were all ... experienced hikers, backcountry 'boarders and skiers."

> —Frank Tadeo, Alpine Rescue Team

SCOTT TOEPFER,

right, of the Colorado **Avalanche Information** Center, measures the depth at the crown of the avalanche on Sunday. Saturday's slide killed four snowboarders and a skier on Loveland Pass.

HELEN H. RICHARDSON | The Denver Post

Overcoming hate Holocaust survivor gives inspiring speech to Clear Creek students

By Deb Hurley Brobst Staff Writer

A Holocaust survivor gave students at Clear Creek High/Middle School a firsthand lesson in tolerance and respect last Thursday when he related his experiences and what he learned from his ordeal.

Jack Adler, who lives in Lone Tree, was 10 when the Nazis marched into his hometown of Pabianice, Poland, in 1939. He survived living in the Dachau and Auschwitz concentration camps, and took part in the four-day Death March that killed more than 6,000 people before the Americans liberated Auschwitz in 1945.

At that time, Adler was 16, weighed 65 pounds and had pneumonia. Everyone in his immediate family died. As an orphan, he was sent to Chicago, where he went to

school, served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, got married and had children.

He said that even though the Holocaust ended 68 years ago, the world hasn't learned

"I am a child survivor of the Holocaust," said Adler, 84, "and I am an eyewitness of man's inhumanity to man."

He has spoken to more than a million people around the world over the past 25 years with a simple message: Stop the hate.

"The 7 billion people on the planet belong to one race, the human race," he told the students. "We are temporary tenants on this planet. We must help each other, not hate each other."

Adler likes to speak to students because "you represent the future. Keeping this

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News WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2013 www.ClearCreekCourant.comwww.ClearCreekCourant.com WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2013



Photo courtesy HELEN H. RICHARDSON | The Denver Post

FRIENDS OF FIVE AVALANCHE VICTIMS walk through the debris area after visiting the site of Saturday's fatal snow slide.

AVALANCHE

From Page 1

was about 650 feet wide and 1,100 feet long — equivalent to the size of approximately 13 football fields and the fracture line was nearly 8 feet deep.

"It was a pretty good-sized slide," Krueger said.

Rescue teams included Loveland Ski Patrol, Arapahoe Basin Ski Patrol, Summit County Search and Rescue, Alpine Search and Rescue, Clear Creek Fire Authority and the Summit County Sheriff's Office.

The avalanche was the deadliest in Colorado since Jan. 21, 1962, when seven people died after a snow slide buried residences at Twin Lakes near Independence

Rescue attempt

Event attendee Michael Bennett was among several who found Boulay before authorities and rescuers arrived.

Bennett said a group had split into two, with one going to Sheep Creek and his group taking a route on the north side of Interstate 70.

Bennett said Timlin had been "especially concerned" with backcountry safety and had expressed his concerns to other attendees the night before.

Bennett said he was in the Loveland Valley parking lot, waiting on the other skiers, when he and others were notified by Colorado Department of Transportation staff of the ava-

lanche in the Sheep Creek drainage. "Realizing that this was where

our friends were supposed to be headed, we immediately rushed up the pass to check out what was going on," Bennett said in a written statement to the Courant. "Upon arrival, we attached our backcoun try avalanche gear and headed out to the scene, which was not far from

Bennett said they encountered a massive pile of avalanche debris, and fellow event attendee Dan Pedrow was already there searching for survivors and digging out a body. Bennett said they were joined in their search by two other backcounty skiers.

the access point on the road."

"As I continued searching the slope, I located a beacon signal, and followed it around a bend and past some trees. I heard (Boulay) moaning, yelling, and immediately recognized one of our group,' Bennett said. "He was still buried, but had his head above the snow and was breathing."

Bennett began digging Boulay out of the snow, a difficult process because the snow was hard-packed.

"Upon digging the survivor out, we also discovered the bodies of two other men (Timlin and Gaukel). Both were unresponsive, not breathing, and had no pulse," Bennett said.

Bennett said rescue officials from both Loveland and Summit County Alpine Rescue helped locate the other victims, some of whom were buried in deep snow.

Bennett said he practiced avalanche rescues for many years but had never been involved in an actual emergency. Knowing how to respond should be part of any responsible backcountry traveler's

"I located a beacon signal, and followed it around a bend and past some trees. I heard (Boulay) moaning, yelling, and immediately recognized one of our group."

— Michael Bennett

duty, he said.

Bennett said many members of the group caught in the avalanche were very experienced and educated in traveling in the backcountry.

"(Timlin's) No. 1 intention for this event was safety and the wellbeing of all of the participants," Bennett said. "Nobody was out there for an adrenaline rush, or getting 'extreme.' This event was about traveling safely in the mountains with our friends, making new friends, and having fun."

Frank Tadeo, spokesman for the Alpine Rescue Team, was involved in the recovery operations.

Tadeo said Alpine Rescue was contacted by the Clear Creek Sheriff's Office at 2 p.m. He said that by the time team members arrived, all of the snowboarders had been located, so they assisted in recovering the victims.

"They were all wearing avalanche beacons, all experienced hikers, backcountry 'boarders and skiers," Tadeo said.

Tadeo said the beacons, also called transceivers, send out a signal that can be picked up by rescuers, and also function as

receivers of signals. "They're best used for companion rescue, so if you and your buddies get swept in an avalanche, and you were lucky enough to not get buried, you can quickly switch your transceiver over to 'search' and find your friends fast," Tadeo said. "The guy who was not completely buried (Boulay) said he was stuck for an hour, so by the time they helped dig him out and then they went looking and found their two friends, over

were buried." Tadeo said two victims who were buried under about 2 feet of snow were found fairly quickly. The last was recovered from 15 feet of snow about 5:30 p.m.

an hour (had passed) after they

"I think it is important to note that these were experienced, well-equipped backcountry skiers and snowboarders who ... just got caught in a bad situation," Tadeo

Snow conditions

Avalanche danger is extreme in the high country as a result of several recent spring snowstorms and fluctuating temperatures.

Colorado Avalanche Information Center executive director Ethan Greene said that even though the calendar says it's spring, snow

conditions are more like what you'd continue to destroy itself," he said. find in February.

"We have a deep, persistent, weak layer in the snowpack, kind of centration camps by reminding a structural weakness that formed himself to stay strong so he could early in the year," Greene said. "The see his loved ones again. Yet, out April weather has really piled up a of his extended family of 83, only lot of snow on top of that, and that's five survived. what's producing these large and dangerous avalanches."

Greene said that while representatives from the Colorado Avalanche Information Center spoke at the fund-raising event, they are not affiliated with Rocky Mountain High Backcountry

Gathering. Greene said his organization was still trying to determine why the group entered such a hazardous

"That's one of the confusing things for us, is kind of how a group
The Idaho Springs Chamber of that seems to be well prepared and Commerce is gearing up for this well educated was able to go into summer's farmers market and an area that we had described very for an event it's calling Dynamite well over the last few days," Greene Days this August.

Greene added that the area had events will draw tourists and be seen natural avalanche activity on a boon for Idaho Springs busithe west side of the Eisenhower nesses. Tunnel, and on April 18 a man was The farmers market, which began killed in an avalanche south of Vail several years ago, was moved to Pass. Both were on slopes that were Courtney Riley Cooper Park last year because the chamber felt the identical to Sheep Creek.

"A lot of what we're doing right Idahoe Mall, its previous location, was difficult to find. now is trying to figure out why a group of people that should have been able to make really good deci- spokeswoman, said the chamber sions went into a place that was well already has more than 20 vendors described (to them) as being the most dangerous area," Greene said. up to participate in the market,

which begins May 31. The market is held every Friday through early Contact Ian Neligh at courant fall from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. editor@evergreenco.com.

He advocated everyone folemphasize how bad people are, but owing the Golden Rule: Do unto rather just the opposite. others as you would have them do Junior Jane Fillion also called the presentation powerful and said

SURVIVOR

From Page 1

"Without it, mankind will

Adler said he survived the hopeless situation in the con-

He gave a thumb's-up sign as he tance even after so much hatred," received a standing ovation

A life-changing speech

Adler's words had a profound effect on the students.

"It was really powerful," junior

By Ian Neligh

Courant Editor

The chamber hopes both

Arika Zittlosen, chamber

— more than last year — signed

she said. "You always should stand up for what's right."

Six long years

Adler tells of the residents embracing the Nazis when they

that (location). The vendors were

Tessa Leake said. "I've learned a

lot about the Holocaust, but I've

never heard it firsthand. It was

in perspective."

others," she said.

senior Aubrey Stewart.

eye-opening to hear about what he

went through. He put many things

Senior Walter Michener called

the speech awesome and inspiring.

He was surprised that Adler didn't

her grandmother was a Holocaust

"It was fascinating how some-

one who had been there can still

respect and withhold judgment of

The presentation meant a lot to

"He preached love and accep-

Springs chamber planning events for year "Everybody was happy with

> happier. We had more vendors last year than we've ever had, and it looks like we're on our way to having more this year," Zittlosen

This year, she said, the chamber plans to better organize the market and to have a chamber representative on hand all the time to help.

"Of course, last year was our first year (at Courtney Riley Cooper Park), so it was a test run, and this year is going to run much smoother. I'm very excited about it," Zittlosen said.

Dynamite Days

The chamber is planning an event called Dynamite Days, so named because of the blasting that is occurring to improve the Twin Tunnels on Interstate 70. The Aug. 24 event, pending city

approval, would close Miner Street, not unlike last year's Tommyknocker Mining Days.

initially marched into his home

town, but almost immediately

the Jews were forced to live in

ghettos. The synagogue where his

family worshiped was turned into

a stable, and Jews were beaten and

tortured. They were fed a piece

of bread and a bowl of soup each

day, and many people died from

malnutrition and disease, includ

with whips and by dogs," Adler

Before being shipped to a

divided into two groups: Group

A consisted of the old, young and

sick, and they were killed. Group

B was the group fit for slave labor.

Adler, his father and older sister

were in Group B, but his younger

The Nazis selected Adler to

use a baby buggy to pick up the

A before they were loaded into

belongings of the people in Group

train cars. He found his sister, hid

sister was in Group A.

said. "It was entertainment for the

concentration camp, everyone was

"People were chased by soldiers

ing his mother and brother.

Nazis."

While details are pending, Zittlosen said Dynamite Days would have bands, beer gardens and children's activities.

"The booths will run down the middle of the street versus up against the sidewalks ... like they were last year for Tommyknocker Days," Zittlosen said, "which I think is going to make the merchants happier because (tourists will) have better access to their

Zittlosen said the late-August date was chosen because merchants want to keep summer tourists coming to Idaho Springs throughout the summer season.

"Everyone seems to be much happier with it being later in the season," Zittlosen said. "It's when we're just starting to slow down, and (here's) something else to bring (tourists) back up."

her in the buggy and brought her to the Group B side to save her life. He said the most gruesome

images he remembers were of Nazi soldiers tearing babies from their mothers' arms, throwing them up in the air and shooting them. "That's what hate can do,"

Adler said. "Then they would go home and play with their own children and go to church." Adler said he escaped be-

ing forced to participate in an experiment by Dr. Josef Mengele, infamous for performing experiments on concentration camp

Adler said he also was met with kindness by an Auschwitz colonel whom Adler worked for. The colonel left small packets of food in the wood stove ashes for Adler to find. He credits the colonel with saving his life and said he would have vouched for the colonel if given the chance.

He said having a sense of humor helped people get through their ordeal. "A sense or humor is good for

everyone to have, even in an evil place," he said. "The Nazis couldn't take away

what was in our heads."



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