



MONARCH SINCE 1887 DAILIES

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★ ★ ★ STREETS EDITION

Fellow jumper opens unconscious woman's parachute

Skydiver is rescued in midair

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHOENIX — A sky diver pursued and caught up with an unconscious colleague and opened her parachute seconds before she struck the ground, saving her life, after a fall of nearly 3 miles.

Debbie Williams was said to have been about 3,500 feet and about 10 seconds from

the ground when Gregory Robertson pulled out of a headlong dive, propped her into an upright position, yanked her rip cord and then released his own chute.

It was like "trying to catch a football that was flopping down the road at 40 miles an hour," said Williams' fiancé, Bill Rothe, who was watching from the ground.

Williams, 31, a veteran of about 50

jumps, was knocked unconscious when she collided with a fellow skydiver during a formation drop at a skydivers rendezvous Saturday near Coolidge, about 50 miles southeast of Phoenix.

According to witnesses, she hit the ground flat on her back. Williams, a fifth-grade teacher in Post, Texas, remained hospitalized Thursday in serious but stable condition under intensive care with

several broken ribs, extensive internal injuries and a lung contusion, a Scottsdale Memorial Hospital spokesman said.

Robertson landed safely and resumed his own diving after Williams was placed aboard an air ambulance.

"I put my rig back on and got on the airplane and went up to work again," he



Associated Press

RESCUER GREGORY ROBERTSON
'It was like another day of skydiving'

— See DIVE, A-9