

# DAILY INTER LAKE

FRIDAY

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## Tragedy on the trail

## Expert team tries to track down bear



A SIGN SHOWING the area closure due to bear activity stands in front of the Green Gate/Half Moon trail area on Thursday. (Aaric Bryan/Daily Inter Lake)

## Mauling story goes worldwide

By SAM WILSON  
Daily Inter Lake

Northwest Montana doesn't typically make the morning news on the East Coast, but when reports that a bear had attacked and killed a mountain biker near Glacier National Park began circulating online Wednesday, the deluge of media requests began.

Janette Turk, the lone public affairs officer for the Flathead National Forest, said mauling victim Brad Treat's former track coach, Paul Jorgensen, got flooded with calls from national news outlets after articles carried quotes attributed to him.

"He left town this afternoon, the coach, to get away from it," Turk said. "[Treat's] mother called me to ask if I could handle the calls she was getting."

By late Thursday afternoon, Turk estimated about 70 different media organizations had tried contacting her during the 24 hours since the news broke. Of those, she guessed about 50 were from outside the state.

"NBC News was coming

See STORY, A6



MONTANA FISH, Wildlife and Parks grizzly bear specialist Tim Manley heads to the woods with a shotgun in the aftermath of a fatal mauling near West Glacier on Wednesday. (Chris Peterson/Hungry Horse News)

## Death may be first in Flathead Forest

Daily Inter Lake  
and Associated Press

Wednesday's fatal bear mauling near West Glacier was perhaps the first in the history of Flathead National Forest, which lies adjacent to Glacier National Park and contains some of the most productive grizzly bear habitat in the lower 48 states.

"It's the first at least in recent memory — I don't know about the '30s or '40s or way back — that I've heard of," Rick Connell, a longtime forest employee and a fire management officer, said Thursday. "We have

employees who have been here their entire careers and talking with people today, no one said that they can remember one."

Connell said he isn't aware of any documented cases of people killed by black or grizzly bears in the 2.5-million acre forest. State officials have yet to confirm the species of the bear involved in Wednesday's deadly attack.

**THE MOST** recent such mauling in Northwest Montana happened last fall, when an elderly woman was killed by a black bear inside

her Ashley Lake home.

On Sept. 27, 2015, a juvenile black bear entered Barbara Paschke's house, attacking her and ransacking the house. Paschke, 85, died Oct. 1 at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

Paschke was believed to have been feeding bears prior to being attacked and had been issued a citation for feeding bears in October 2012.

Paschke's obituary stated that she had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in 2009, "which altered her perspective on how to preserve wildlife wisely and safely."

Officials initially believed Brad Treat's death Wednesday was the result of an encounter with a grizzly bear, which would make it the first fatal grizzly attack since 2001 in Northwest Montana. In that incident near Ovando, a grizzly killed an elk hunter on the Blackfoot Clearwater Game Range.

Six people have been fatally mauled by bears in the Northern Rockies since 2010, but those deaths were mainly in the Yellowstone area.

Treat was killed on a trail on Flathead National Forest

See FOREST, A6

Daily Inter Lake  
and Hungry Horse News

The victim of a bear mauling Wednesday was remembered as a top-notch law enforcement officer.

Brad Treat, 38, died when a grizzly attacked him while he was riding a mountain bike in the Green Gate area of Flathead National Forest south of West Glacier.

Treat, who lived in West Glacier, was a law enforcement officer for the U.S. Forest Service.

Rob Davies, Hungry Horse/Glacier View district ranger for Flathead National Forest, had high praise for Treat, a Kalispell native.

"I've worked with the Forest Service for 25 years," Davies said Thursday. "He was the best law enforcement officer I've ever worked with."

Law enforcement officers in the Forest Service work separately from district rangers, Davies noted.

But Treat treated people like family, Davies said.

"He was a super-committed employee," Davies said.

Treat had a way of making people laugh, even in difficult and trying circumstances, Davies noted.

"His sense of humor was amazing," Davies said. "He made people laugh no matter what."

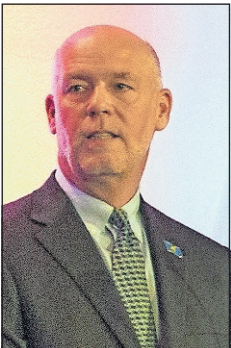
Treat had been a law enforcement officer with the Forest Service since 2004 and previously was a ranger in Glacier National Park. He was an integral part of the tight-knit community of Forest Service employees in Northwest Montana, Flathead National Forest spokeswoman Janette Tusk said.

"They are traumatized and affected by this, grieving the loss of a comrade," she said.

According to Flathead County Sheriff Chuck Curry, "Brad was an integral member of our area law enforcement

See TREAT, A6

**MONTANA ELECTION**  
Deep pockets help, but can't always ensure victory  
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Top woman player upset in second round  
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RECORDS

DEATHS

Berniece May ‘Auntie Bea’ Upham-Atkinson, 104

Berniece May “Auntie Bea” Upham-Atkinson, 104, died Wednesday, June 29, 2016, at her residence in Creston.

Memorial services will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, July 9, at the Lake Funeral Home in Polson.

MEMORIAL

Clay Marvin

A celebration of life, barbecue and bonfire for Clay Marvin, 59, who died May 11, will

be held at 4 p.m. July 9. Call 250-4734 or 756-7728 for information and directions.

OBITUARIES

Rita McLeod, 77

On June 29 at 6 p.m., “the Lord put on his dancing shoes to welcome home” our loving, caring, and talented wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend.

Rita passed away peacefully in the Kalispell Regional Healthcare Intensive Care Unit surrounded by her family. She died from Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) after complications of hip surgery at North Valley Hospital.

Rita was born to Noni and Tony Mozer in Choteau, on Jan. 21, 1939.

She attended grade school in Dupuyer and graduated valedictorian of Valier High School. Throughout her life, she painted watercolor landscapes, charcoal portraits and sketched portraits. Rita loved pleasing her family and friends with her crafts, cooking, knitting and sewing, and after retirement from CFAC, she was able to spend time crocheting newborn baby hats and scarves for heart patients at valley hospitals. One of her favorite things to sew was purses out of sports-themed fabric.

She was famous with her kids and grandkids for her cookies, with ginger creams as their



favorite. She was especially proud of all her children and

children and great-grandchildren.

She is survived by her husband, Robert McLeod, of Whitefish; and four children, Sheri Rose (Frank) of Alabama, Doug McLeod (Jennifer) of Kentucky, Sandi Cooper (Tim) of Bozeman, and Julie Cowan (Ron) of Missoula. She is also survived by seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, Cory Cooper (Crystal, Addi and Blake) and Nikayla Cooper; Ian, Maggie, Kelsey and Grace McLeod; and Heather Cowan. She is also survived by her sister Myrna (John) Nyberg of Missoula.

She was preceded in death by her mother and father, Noni and Tony Mozer, of Dupuyer.

A celebration of life will take place at 2 p.m. Saturday, July 2, at Austin Funeral Home.

Austin Funeral Home is caring for the McLeod family.

Ronald Dennis Mickelson, 71

Ronald Dennis Mickelson passed from this crazy earth on June 28, 2016, after a 12-year battle with cancer.

Ron was born to Elsie and Harold Mickelson on June 8, 1945, in Plentywood, and was raised in Westby. He was a tall 6-foot-3 and loved basketball, football and choir. After graduating from high school he spent a short time in California before landing in Columbia Falls where his parents had moved in 1964. At that time, he worked for the Forest Service.

In December of 1964 he returned to Westby to work for his Uncle Kenny and began dating Bonnie Raaum. They married Sept. 3, 1965.

The newlyweds moved to Minneapolis, where their daughter Laura Ann was born. In the summer of 1966 the couple landed back in Columbia Falls. In September of 1968 he became the proud father of a son, Lance Vernal. Ron was then employed by Plum Creek, where he worked for 30 years. In 2007 he and Bonnie moved back to their home town of Westby, where Ron enjoyed working with heavy equipment for Meyer Corporation. Three years later they journeyed back to Columbia Falls where Ron worked at the Army Navy store for a while before retiring.

Ron enjoyed camping, boating and watching high school sporting events. He attended many track meets, volleyball, basketball and football games and choir concerts to watch his five grand-



kids participate. He loved working in his yard and was always very fussy about how it looked. He spent many

hours plowing snow in the winter — the overseer of the Mickelson 20-acre homestead. He always enjoyed trips back to Westby in his motor home, his pride and joy. Family and home were always number one for Ron.

He is survived by his mother Elsie (94), and his wife Bonnie; his daughter, Laura Ferda, and her husband, Mike and their children, Courtney Baker and husband David, and Tyson Ferda and wife Michaela, and great-granddaughter Ruby Ann; Ron’s son, Lance, and his children, Britney Lavina and husband Jay, Nicole, and Dennis, and his great-grandchildren Mykel Hannah, Jaykob and Jayden; his brothers, Marvin and Alan; and sisters, Sharon Hader and husband Lance, Linda Hill, Pat Johnson, and Karen Cowan and husband Shawn.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, his father Harold, and his great-granddaughter Nellie May Baker.

There will be a celebration of life at 2 p.m. on Sunday, July 3, at Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls, followed by a potluck picnic at Pinewood Park.

Smoking mattress pulled out of garage

Kalispell Police responded to a report from someone on a walk who allegedly saw a mattress on fire in a garage. The person said he or she pulled the mattress out of the building to avoid a larger fire. The location was a foreclosed home, and the unattached garage was still smoking by the time police arrived. According to the report, transients had been sleeping at the location.

An officer gave a man a ride home after he was found sitting in the middle of Grandview Drive with two bottles of wine in hand.

Officers investigated a report of “suspicious” activity of a man with a knife on his hip “roaming” between stores. Officers discovered the man was just looking for change.

A girl in her late teens

LAW ENFORCEMENT ROUNDUP

told police a man, who was “approximately old,” asked for a ride home. She told police the man wasn’t mean, he was just “really creepy.”

A woman reported that a man in his 30s was “speaking with younger juveniles” at a park. After investigating, officers determined the man was a family friend of the kids.

A man told police that the ex boyfriend of one of his employees showed up in his office and demanded the boss give him his child. The boss was counseled by police.

Police assisted roommates who had a disagreement over rhubarb in the apartment.

A woman called police about a person she saw walking a dog in the

road, whom she said was “not dealing with life well.” She said the walker was standing in the middle of the road and was not responding to the people trying to drive around the obstruction.

The Lincoln County Sheriff’s Office assisted a man who said his wife had thrown “a cup of solid ice at him.”

Whitefish Police searched for two long-haired men who allegedly “put some type of feces and toilet paper in the roadway,” who were “disrupting passersby” in downtown Whitefish. Police discovered the brown material was mud. They asked the pranksters to move along. Police searched for

several suspects after a woman reported two “knuckleheads” came onto her property, stared at her car, then got inside of it.

Someone was upset when they saw five high school-aged kids allegedly throwing litter and jumping off a bridge. Police found the suspects and asked them to clean up the trash.

Columbia Falls Police advised a family with a dead cat on their property that they do “not pick up dead animals” for people. The family called police after finding the cat’s body by their back door and asked for it be removed. They said they believed it had been hit by a car and crawled to the location before succumbing to its injuries. The callers were told they were “welcome to dispose of it as they see fit.”

TREAT

from A1

team and a friend to us all. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.”

Treat attended Flathead High School and was a standout distance runner in track and cross-country in the 1990s.

According to his coach, Paul Jorgensen, Treat won Class AA

state championships in the 1,600 and 3,200-meter runs in 1996 and went on to compete for the University of Montana.

“Great kid and a fine runner,” Jorgensen said in an email. “He will be missed.”

Jorgensen also said: “We all have fond memories of Brad Treat. A lot of people really liked Brad. He was a favorite for many of the kids I coached and also as part of the high school.”

Jorgensen recalled that Treat would usually be among the top finishers during cross-country meets but would stick close to the finish line to congratulate all the other runners as they came in. The coach liked that so much he asked the other athletes on the team to do the same thing.

Treat was married and lived just across U.S. 2 from the trail system where he died.

Longtime friend Miles Mason described Treat as “ultra-competitive” and said he used to get awakened by his friend every morning to go run.

“He was always the runner I aspired to be and, as I got to know him, the friend I aspired to be and later the husband I aspired to be. An amazing person,” Mason said.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

STORY

from A1

from L.A., and I think the ‘Today’ show may have interviewed our regional forester today, so it’s pretty national,” Turk said. “There’s a lot of interest — ‘Good Morning America’ asked to be escorted out to the scene.”

That’s not currently a possibility, she noted, given that a wide area is closed to the public while a team of wildlife officials scour the area seeking the killer bear.

Major media outlets carrying the story Thursday morning included the Associated Press, Washington Post, the BBC, the Daily Mail and the New York Daily News.

A Google news search Thursday afternoon turned up more than 6,000 results for articles containing “grizzly,” “attack” and “Glacier National Park” in the previous 24 hours.

Many British news websites also carried the story.

The headline from The Independent in Britain read: “Grizzly bear wanted by police after killing a cyclist near Glacier

National Park.”

The Evening Standard in the United Kingdom wrote: “Grizzly bear kills cyclist in mauling at US beauty spot Glacier National Park.”

Flathead County Sheriff Chuck Curry, whose office initially confirmed the death of Flathead Forest law-enforcement officer Brad Treat, said the flood of media requests to his office included multiple international outlets. Curry said he’s also answered calls from “Good Morning America,” the “Today” show and the main studios of all the major network television channels.

“That’s pretty much all I’ve done today and last night,” Curry said. “A lot of international media have called and, to be honest, I haven’t returned a lot of their calls. We’ve been busy.”

He attributed the international appeal of the news story to a couple of basic elements: It happened just outside a national park and it involved a grizzly bear — at least as it was first reported.

Initial statements from law enforcement officials that a grizzly bear was behind the fatal

attack were dialed back Thursday morning when a press release from the local office of Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks noted that the state agency had not yet confirmed the bear’s species.

But John Fraley, the regional spokesman in Kalispell for the state wildlife agency, said the media blitz remained consistent throughout the day.

“The bear is a big, high-profile animal, even though we’re not sure it was a grizzly bear. Just the fact that it has to do with biking, hiking or jogging on trails, I think we all think, ‘Gosh, this could be us,’” Fraley said.

While he primarily has been fielding calls

from reporters and other media representatives while wardens and biologists from his office piece together the details of the incident, he also has gotten plenty of inquiries from other people.

“We’re hearing from individuals across the country as well, as far away as Hawaii, expressing their opinion on what should be the fate of the bear,” Fraley said. “I’ve been pretty consistent. I’ve just told them that when and if we catch the bear, we’ll decide what to do when we have all the information.”

Reporter Sam Wilson can be reached at 758-4407 or by email at swilson@dailyinterlake.com.

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BRIDGE

Bidding quiz

You are South, neither side vulnerable. The bidding has been:

West North East South  
1 ♠ 2 ♦ Pass ?

What would you bid now with each of the following five hands?

1. ♠ KJ74 ♥ AJ6 ♦ Q3 ♣ K952
2. ♠ 85 ♥ A9843 ♦ QJ4 ♣ K75
3. ♠ 6 ♥ 92 ♦ A875 ♣ AQ9643
4. ♠ AJ93 ♥ KQ74 ♦ 9 ♣ 8764
5. ♠ 75 ♥ KQJ8742 ♦ 74 ♣ A8 \*\*\*

1. Three notrump. Before discussing the proper action, it might be best to define the meaning of a non-jump overcall on the two-level. Generally, this shows not only a very good suit but also the values for an opening bid.

Once this definition is accepted, it becomes clear that this is a game-going hand, and the most likely game is in notrump. Two notrump, which would be invitational and not forcing, would be totally inadequate.

2. Three diamonds. A partner who overcalls is usually much more interested in learning if you have support for his suit and the values for a forward-going bid than to learn whether you have a suit of your own and a hand of indeterminate strength. It is therefore better to raise diamonds with the given hand than to

bid two hearts, which you could also do with ♠ 974 ♥ KJ9852 ♦ 6 ♣ Q83. You are hoping, after you raise diamonds, that partner will be able to bid notrump.

3. Four diamonds. Here you want to invite game in a suit rather than notrump. True, you have only 10 high-card points, but your distributional features more than make up for your lack of high-card strength. Another way of implying a strong interest in game in diamonds would be to cuebid two spades, a method currently popular with many players.

4. Pass. Chances for game are poor, considering your lack of support for partner’s suit. To bid two hearts with a four-card suit is out of the question, and two notrump is likewise not feasible because partner’s diamonds might prove useless as a significant source of tricks in notrump. Partner is a favorite to make what he has bid — two diamonds — so you should get out of the bidding while you still have a chance for a plus score.

5. Four hearts. Given partner’s two-level overcall, you should be a heavy favorite to make four hearts, and you should bid it directly. It would be wrong to bid only three hearts, which is highly invitational but not forcing.

Tomorrow: How to capture a knave.

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How to place an obituary

The Inter Lake publishes both free death notices and paid obituaries on this page. The daily deadline is 4 p.m. Call 758-4440

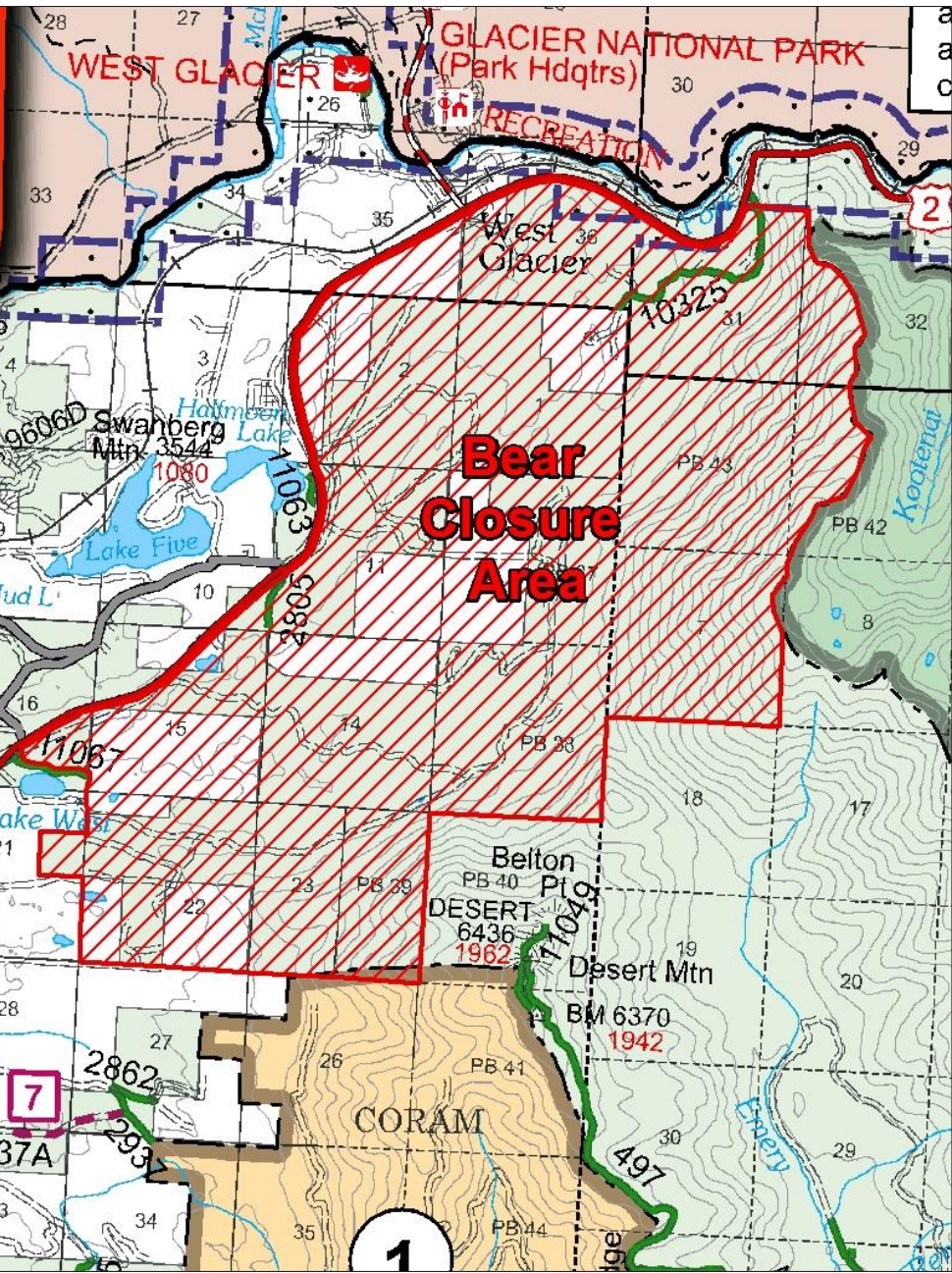
for more information. On weekends, call 758-4430. Death notices are brief news stories to announce the death of a local per-

son or a person with local survivors.

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want a more personal touch.

Obituaries will be edited for clarity, accuracy and matters of taste.



THIS MAP shows the Flathead National Forest area near West Glacier closed to the public following Wednesday's bear attack in which a West Glacier man died. (Flathead National Forest graphic)

# Broad forest area closed

Daily Inter Lake

The Flathead National Forest has expanded the area closed to the public around the site of Wednesday's fatal bear attack south of West Glacier.

The closure will remain in effect through July 29 while officials investigate the incident, according to a press release from the forest.

The closure extends east and south from U.S.

2 in the West Glacier area toward Desert Mountain in the forest's Hungry Horse Ranger District. The area is bounded to the east by the Great Bear Wilderness and to the south by the Coram Experimental Forest.

It includes the Green Gate/Half Moon trail system, along with several forest roads: Pack Trail/Road No. 11065A; Hog Haven/Road No. 2863; Belton Point Road/Road No. 2805; Halfmoon Lake

Road/Road No. 11011; Belton Ski Course/Road No. 632; and Ryan Road/Road No. 10325.

It also includes the unofficial trail way that extends from Forest Road No. 590A past the boundary of the experimental forest.

The closure includes some private land, and the release noted that landowners and lessees within the area are exempt from the road closures so they can reach their property.

## BEAR

from A1

Great Bear Wilderness and to the south by the Coram Experimental Forest.

Brad Treat, 38, a law enforcement officer with the U.S. Forest Service, was pronounced dead at the scene after he was attacked while riding his mountain bike Wednesday afternoon.

The bear knocked Treat off his bike and killed him; the bicyclist riding behind him was not attacked and rode back to summon help.

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks spokesman John Fraley said Thursday the state wildlife agency had deployed its Wildlife Human Attack Response Team, consisting of about a half-dozen agency personnel, to comb the area near the attack.

"We have biologists and wardens that have been specifically trained on how to respond to these incidents," Fraley said.

He said three or four culvert traps had been set by Thursday night, but he did not know how long the team would continue to actively search the area.

Remote motion-sensor cameras have also been set up in the area. Fraley said agency personnel collected bear DNA samples to help identify any bears the team catches, but he noted the results would not be available for about a week.

Flathead County Sheriff Chuck Curry, whose office is assisting state wildlife officials and the Forest Service, said Two Bear Air Rescue helicopters searched for the bear Thursday morning.

Fish, Wildlife and Parks had not confirmed whether the animal responsible for the attack was a grizzly or a black bear, Fraley said. That determination will rest on the DNA samples and other evidence collected from the scene.

"We are attempting to capture and/or confirm the identity of the offending

bear," Warden Capt. Lee Anderson of Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks said in a Thursday news release. "When we have more information we will decide what actions to take."

A large grizzly bear had been reported Wednesday afternoon in a marsh near the scene of the lethal bear mauling while crews searched for Treat, but Curry said searchers did not know whether it was the bear involved in the attack.

"There was a bear sighted by [medical helicopter] ALERT, but again, is it the right bear? There's a lot of bears up there," Curry said.

Fish, Wildlife and Parks spokesman Ron Aasheim said Thursday that the area is dense with bears and it may be difficult to find the one that killed Treat.

Bears that attack people are killed if wildlife managers determine that they displayed predatory behavior, such as stalking the person, or consumed their victim.

In this case, officials

said it is too soon to say what will be done to the bear if it is found. They are trying to determine if it was a mother with cubs, whether it was protecting a food cache nearby or whether it simply reacted to the surprise appearance of the bikers, Aasheim said.

"One of the things that is key to all this is whether it was a predatory act," Aasheim said. "I don't think there's any sense that this was predatory."

To confirm whether they have the right bear, wildlife officials typically collect DNA evidence from the animal to compare it to evidence found at the scene, analyze bite marks and other injuries on the victim, and examine the animal's claws, jaws and feces for human remains.

An autopsy was being performed on the victim at the state crime lab, and the evidence gathered could help determine the size, age and sex of the bear, narrowing the search, Curry said.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

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