Tragedy on the trail

By SAM WILSON

Northwest Montana doesn't typically make the morning news on the East Coast, but that all changed Wednesday when a mountain biker near Glacier National Park was attacked and killed by a black bear.

"It's the first at least in the Northern Rockies since 2010, 'which altered her perspective on how to properly wildlife wisely and safely,' Davies noted.

According to Flathead National Forest spokeswoman Janette Turk, the lone victim Brad Treat, 38, died when a grizzly attacked him while he was riding a mountain bike in the Green Gates of Flathead National Forest south of West Glacier.

"Brad was an integral member of our team and previously was a range enforcement officer with the Forest Service. He was an integral part of the Forest Service work sep-

Mauling story goes worldwide

MONTANA FISHER, 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)

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A celebration of a barbecuer and bonfire enthusiast, Ronald Dennis McLeod, who died May 11, will be held.

Ronald Dennis McLeod, 71

Ronald Dennis McLeod was born to Elsie and John McLeod in Plentywood on March 20, 1945. He was raised in Westby. He was an avid hunter, fisherman, and loved barbecue and bonfires.

Ronald spent his early years on a number of family farms and with his parents, granddaughter, and great-grandmother. He always enjoyed trips back to his childhood home, his pride and joy.

Ronald was a valued member of the community and was a beloved figure among his family and friends. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

Private services were held for Ronald Dennis McLeod. His family and friends are invited to attend the Celebration of Life on Saturday, July 2, at 1 p.m. at the Memorial Funeral Home in Columbia Falls.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Flathead Forest law-enforcement officer Brad Turk in memory of Ronald Dennis McLeod. To make a contribution, please contact the Memorial Funeral Home in Columbia Falls.

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The Flathead National Forest has expanded the closure area around the site of the June 28 fatal bear attack near West Glacier.

The closure will remain in effect through July 20 while officials investigate the attack.

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 Green Butte Creek drainage and to the south by the Coram Experimental Forest.

The closure includes the Green Gate–Half Moon trail system, along with several forest roads: Pack Trail/ Road No. 1380A; Hog Haven Road No. 2823; Bolton Point Road/Road No. 2655; Halfmoon Lake Road/Road No. 1101; Bolton Ski Course/Road No. 622 and Ryan Road/ Road No. 13122. It also includes the small, 1,500-foot trail that extends from the south side of 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 closure so they can reach their property.

“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,” Sheriff Chuck Curry said. “I don’t think there’s any sense that this was predatory.”

The Associated Press contributed to this story.