C. police officer fired after inmate escapes

By CHRIS PETERSON
Hungry Horse News

Longtime Columbia Falls Police Chief Dave Perry has been fired.

Contacted by phone Friday afternoon, Perry, 55, confirmed he had been terminated.

He said his firing was relat- ed to an inmate who escaped from the Columbia Falls Police Department in May.

Perry said on advice of his attorney, he could not comment further, but he planned to appeal the decision.

Perry has been with the police department for 22 years with the last 20 as chief.

"A thorough investigation was conducted," Columbia Falls City Manager Susan Nicosia said Friday. "This investiga- tion was made by the city termi- nated chief's employment."

Nicosia said it was a personnel matter and she couldn't comment further.

The escape brought plenty of criticism from community members.

On May 12, Christopher Calf Looking, 36, of East Glacier managed to escape from the Columbia Falls Police Department after he was arrested for allegedly assaulting his girlfriend.

Calf Looking was arrested at about noon at a Wildstar Drive residence. Arrested at around 2:20 p.m., Calf Looking was found walking out of the department, without shoes or socks, and a manhunt ensued. New Colby Calf Looking escaped wasn't clear.

The Two Bear Air Rescue helicopter along with Columbia Falls Police, Flathead County Sheriff’s Office, U.S. Border Patrol and Montana Highway Patrol chased the man for more than an hour before he approached fenced near the Flathead River.

At the time, Perry said it wasn't necessary to notify schools or residents about the escape, but several people on social media disagreed.

"You never want to kill a bear if we don't have to," Perry said.

With the help of the Two Bear Air Helicopter, they were able to locate the bear in the river, but officers on the ground couldn't.

Perry said schools didn't need to be told because police knew where Calf Looking was.

Perry said he had consid- ered retirement at the end of last year, but decided to remain with the city.

See B8, A4

ARCHIE BROWN:

Red, white and boom

By MEGAN STRICKLAND
Daily Inter Lake

"You can't wait for the government to bail you out if you are under fire" — In what amounts to an apology for last year’s ban on fireworks, Northwest Montana for this year’s celebrations.

For fireworks fans, there are community shows planned in Lakeside, Whitefish and Polson on the theme, “Rock the Fourth — Music of America,” so dress up as your favor- ite American musician and bring a lawn chair, park your stroller and pick a spot on the beach.

"We are here to protect the ranch, which is home to about 60 residents and staff, operated by the Flathead Landmarks Foundation, the ranch couldn't," Larsson said.

"You can't wait for the gov- ernment to bail you out if you are under fire," Larsson said.

"They took too many other things to worry about," Larsson said.

"The ranch staff built up a firebreak along the western side of the property. The cabins were also made to protect the ranch from the fire," Larsson said.

"You work and you pray and the fire stepped right on the bed, Larsson said. "The ranch is a beautiful place."

"When we get to the boundary," Larsson said.

"It didn't take 18 acres," Larsson said.

"The fire was called in at 7 p.m. when it got to the boundary," Larsson said.

"You can't wait for the gover- nment to bail you out if you are under fire," Larsson said.

"The fire stopped right there," Larsson said.

"The fire wasn't necessary to notify schools or residents of the attack sites."

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**BEAR**

from A1

The American flag is at half-staff outside the Flathead County Courthouse Monday in honor of fish and wildlife enforcement officer Brad Treat who died from a bear attack on Wednesday. (Brenda Diemer/Interlake Daily)

**CSI**

from A1

It’s been hard for them, with lots of inter-questions, for someone to answer your phone because you’re busy answering for someone else, but it’s better for now, Treat said. “They’re serious, but they seemed specialized, unfortunately.”

After waiting an hour and talking with everybody dialing the line, the incident team was able to finalize some of the procedures. The two heavy tankers pushed foliage that was growing on the south-facing slope so there’s not a lot of growth there,” he said. “It’s on a south-facing slope with trees on both sides of the road, and there isn’t a lot of growth on the ground. It’s just very rocky here and there.”

Lafrombois reminded firefighters that the bears aren’t being captured. “They aren’t standing by the tower,” he said. “It’s just going to remain where it is unless there’s a problem with it.”

Lafrombois added that the bears weren’t being disturbed. “They’re just trying to move those corn piles off the road so there’s not a lot of growth on the ground. It’s just a rocky area there.”

The American flag is at half-staff outside the Flathead County Courthouse Monday in honor of fish and wildlife enforcement officer Brad Treat who died from a bear attack on Wednesday. (Brenda Diemer/Interlake Daily)

**RANCH**

from A1

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**FORTH**

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**TROY**

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Troy’s Old Fashioned Independence Day celebration begins at 7 p.m. on Friday at the River Park in Kalispell. Live music starts at 7 p.m. with live entertainment provided by recording artist Jared Blake and others. Fireworks light up Highway 371 beginning at dusk.”

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**POLIBRODE**

from 300.000 at noon at Cherry Valley Park in Eureka.

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**KOLSON**

from 300.000 at noon at Cherry Valley Park in Eureka.

for more information, call 406-883-8838.

**FORTH**

from A1

The Park Service also has a website, nps.gov, which is being continually updated. To find the best ways to avoid lethal shots, the National Park Service has a website, nps.gov, which is being continually updated.

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