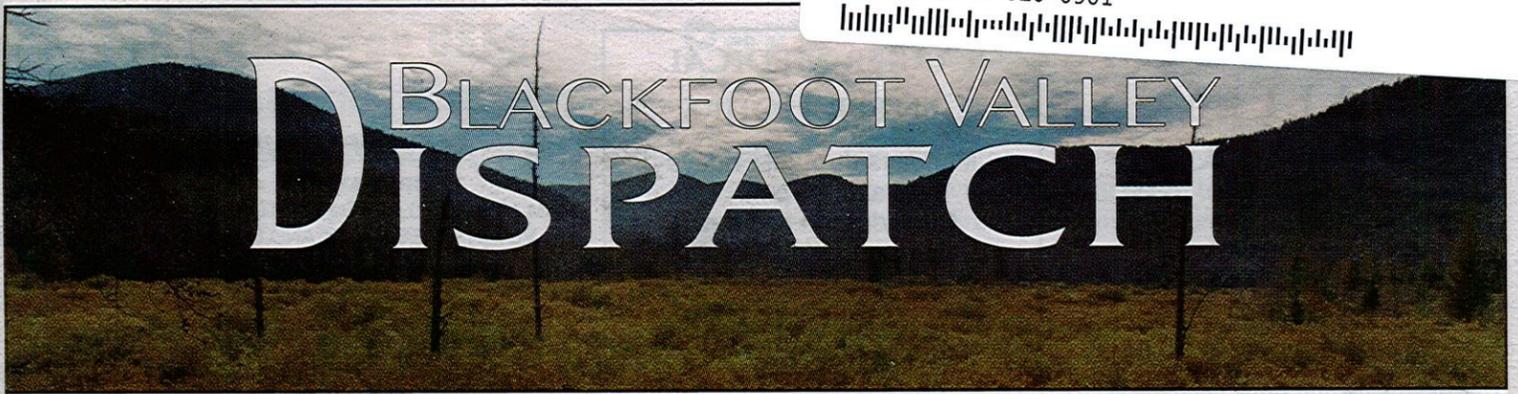


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## Former resident deputy for Lincoln passes away



Lewis and Clark County Sheriff Leo Dutton announced the loss of Sgt. Tim Zarske, a former resident deputy here in Lincoln and brother of retired local Highway Patrol Trooper Scott Zarske.

"It is with a heavy heart and great sorrow that I announce the passing of 48-year-old Sgt. Tim Zarske. Tim passed away early this morning at St. Peters' hospital. Our condolences to his wife Tammy and their family," Dutton said in a statement issued Tuesday afternoon.

Coroner Mickey Nelson attributed Zarske's death to a cardiac event.

A 20-year veteran of the Sheriff's Office, Zarske had

a long association with county law enforcement. His father was a Lewis and Clark County Deputy and his brother Scott recalled that he began his association with the Sheriff's Office as a teenager when he took part in the Explorer Scout program. He served as a reserve deputy and worked as a dispatcher for both the county and the Highway patrol before becoming a deputy in 1993. Not long after he came to Lincoln as a resident deputy and served here from 1994 to 1996, before returning to Helena for a new position and ultimately a promotion to Sergeant.

Zarske is the first active duty Lewis and Clark County deputy to die since 1990. To honor him, deputies will wear the traditional black band across their badges denoting a fallen fellow law enforcement officer.

Funeral services are scheduled for 1 p.m. Monday, Sept. 8, at the Lewis and Clark County Fairgrounds, pending confirmation.

## Cleanup of Mike Horse mine waste underway



Shellie Haaland (front) and Jeni Garcin-Flatow, the DEQ public information officer, stand at the upper end of the Mike Horse impoundment where excavations have removed the contaminated material has begun to reveal the historic contours of Bear Trap Canyon.

Story, photos by Roger Dey  
 BVD Editor

For decades the original creek bed of Bear Trap Creek has been buried under the contaminated tailings from the Mike Horse Mine, but on the afternoon of Aug 28,

Shellie Haaland stood in the stream channel where water once flowed. Behind her, the first excavations of the Mike Horse tailings impoundment showed the vertical tooth marks of an excavator bucket that had scooped out the ten-foot

deep layer of soft gray clay-like tailings and cleared the contaminated material down to the original floor of the canyon at the upper end of the site, uncovering artifacts from the old Mike

See WASTE Pg. 7

## Lynx Football season remains in question

Shane Brown  
 Lincoln High School  
 Football Coach

As conference play approaches, the worries of not being able to field a Lincoln Lynx football team become more of a reality. To play the first conference game on Sept. 13, a student would have had to start practices Saturday, Aug. 30. That time has passed and, after riding the roller

coaster ride of students coming out to play and students quitting, we find ourselves at five players.

Lincoln High School already has had to cancel its first two games of the scheduled season. It remains to be seen if there would be a team for the homecoming game coming up on Sept. 19.

Sadly, time is not on our side. Each passing day

with less than six players puts the total season in harm's way. I still hold out hope that 20 years of tradition will not go down the drain and that all the time and effort put in by so many will not go to waste.

Friday Sept. 12 is the last day a player could start and allow us to avoid missing a third conference game, which would force us to salvage what we can

of the season playing at the Junior Varsity level.

A huge thank you to Shelton Snyder, Coletyn Trump, Colton Grantier, Payton Peterson and Bret Arthur. These young men are having a huge opportunity taken away from them after so many before them put in the hard work and time to field the teams we have all enjoyed over the past 20 years.



## LOCAL EVENTS

**Sept. 6**  
**Heather Terman Memorial Fun Run**  
 Meet at Hooper Park at 9 a.m.

**Sept. 7**  
**Helmville Horseman's Funday**  
 Helmville Rodeo Grounds  
 9 a.m.

**Sept. 12**  
**10th Annual Trumpeter Swan release**  
 Meet at Trixis in Ovando at 9 a.m. for ride to the release site

**Sept. 15 - Oct. 4**  
**Blackfoot Pathways: Sculpture in the Wild International Sculpture Symposium**  
 Natures Playground/ Sculpture in the Wild Sculpture Park

**Sept. 20-21**  
**Lambkins Rod Run and Wilderness Car Show**  
 Downtown Lincoln

**Sept. 28**  
**Annual Helmville Turkey Shoot**  
 Helmville Community Center dinner starts at noon

Calendar brought to you by Becky



Call 431-0325 to have an event added to the calendar

**WASTE** *from page 1*

Horse town dump along the way.

Haaland, Montana Department of Environmental Quality construction manager for the Upper Blackfoot Mining Complex, was glad to finally be moving dirt after so many years of planning.

"This is the part where the payoff is and it's really the part I love the most," she said. "You get this stuff out of here; you start seeing the whole thing come back together. It's amazing."

Work to remove the mine waste began at the upper end of the impoundment in late July and on Aug. 18, the first truckloads of contaminated material left site bound for the UBMC waste repository just off Highway 279, about six miles away. Last Thursday morning Gov. Steve Bullock joined members of Lincoln community organizations and representatives of groups such as Trout Unlimited and the Blackfoot Challenge for a look at the entire process to reclaim the headwaters of the Blackfoot River.

Near the top of the Mike Horse impoundment dam, two excavators readied piles of contaminated soil for the haul trucks in the background as Haaland outlined the plan for removing a total of 850,000 cubic yards of contaminated material from the Mike Horse and Bear Trap Canyons.

"We expect the whole haul to take about four years. We have a two year contract out right now with Helena Sand and Gravel," she explained. Their job is to excavate the back third or so of this impoundment. They'll also take ten to 20 feet off the top of the dam and off of the tailings here."

She said next year they plan to remove the remainder of the impoundment and the dam, which rose 65 feet above the canyon floor before work began.

The second contract for the cleanup is slated to go out in 2016 to deal with the floodplain, from the base of the impoundment dam out past the water treatment plant that currently removes contaminants from water coming out of the mining area.

The final contract in 2017 will deal with removing contaminated material from the wetlands beyond the mouth of the canyon. Haaland said the contracts are split up to allow Montana firms to be competitive in bidding for the projects.

Regardless of all the planning and scheduling, Haaland said there is only about a 100-day window

each year to move dirt and admitted there is one variable that could throw a wrench into the works. "The one thing we have that could slow us down and get us off schedule at this point is the weather. Mother Nature's going to dictate what we do up here and how long we get to work."

Eight side-dump trucks make repeated round trips to the repository throughout the day, but with a relatively late start this year and cooler weather on the horizon, Helena Sand and Gravel is working to increase their haul capacity from 1800 cubic yards to 3000 cubic yards a day.

The UBMC waste repository, the second stop on last week's tour, has been a source of confusion, concern, debate and ultimately legal action, in the Lincoln area for the last several years.

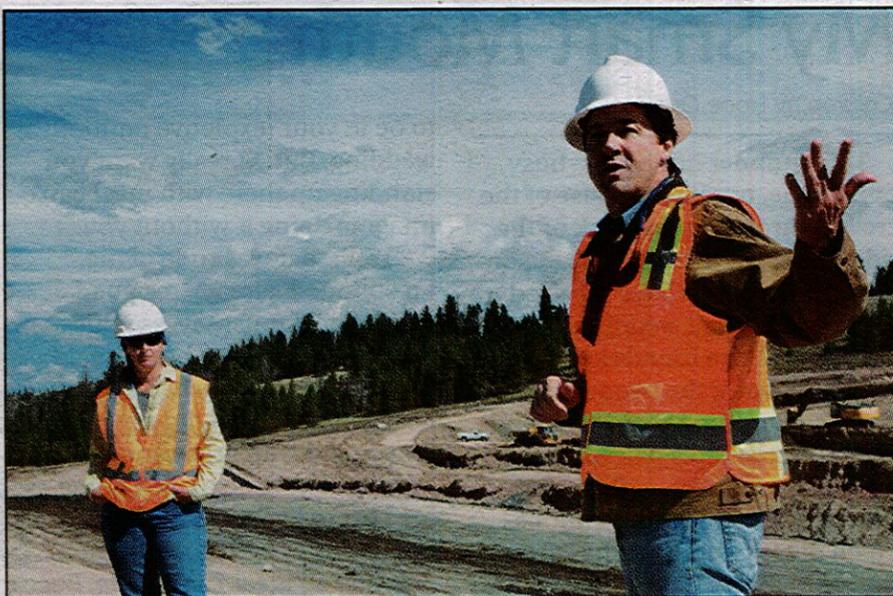
Mike and Barbara Grimes, who live across Highway 279 from the repository site, have been battling the DEQ and Forest Service since the area was first considered as the repository site. A lawsuit brought by the Grimes' against DEQ and the Sieben Ranch, who originally owned the land is currently working its way through the legal system.

Despite the controversy, work got underway on the repository last year. Although it sits closer to Highway 279 than originally anticipated, Haaland explained that it was designed to take advantage of the areas low-permeability glacial till and volcanic tuff layers in that area that offer added protection to the areas water table.

The site will also provide the necessary clean borrow material needed for the reclamation efforts at the impoundment and mine sites and for blending the repository into the terrain once it's capped.

Looking across the repository, Bullock spoke about both the scope of the project and at what it means for the area, saying it will turn what had been a generational challenge into a multi-generational opportunity, the benefits of which his children will see.

"Not just for his site, but



Gov. Steve Bullock, while standing atop the protective berm at the UBMC waste repository, Aug. 28, talks about the impact the Mike Horse reclamation will have on the Blackfoot Valley.



▲An old knick-knack pulled out of the old Mike Horse dump, which is part of the excavation, speaks to the families that once lived at the mine's town.

▶Two excavators stockpile de-watered mine waste to be loaded onto haul trucks for the trip to the repository.



ultimately for the most iconic river that we have, the Blackfoot," he said.

Bullock acknowledged the challenges Lincoln and the Upper Blackfoot Valley have faced in the long process to take care of the Mike Horse. "Certainly I have not doubt there has been both consternation and hesitation about this," he said. "Now that it's going, I hope it's going well for the community and will continue to go well."

Bullock feels that, after the impact of the construction is past, it will remain a benefit for the area. "It really does restore in everyone's mind...what beauty and wonder this place is here," he said.

For Susan Howsmon, the newest member of the Upper Blackfoot Community Council, seeing the project come to fruition is something of a relief. As the owner of the BVD from 2003 until 2012, she had

a front row seat to the debate about the project that raged in Lincoln.

"There was so much we didn't know about what was going to happen in the beginning. There were all kinds of stories. DEQ did not really have an idea of what it was going to look like," she said. "So those rumors were floating all over town." Much of it stemmed from the unknowns and from concerns about the impact it might have on residents in the area, she said. "When its people you know who are going to be directly impacted, you're cautious. You don't want to jump into something where other people are going to get hurt."

In looking back at a commentary on the subject she wrote four years ago, Howsmon said it looks like most of the concerns the community had back then have been taken care of. "I was glad to see it. It looks like it's coming along well."

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