

An excavator loads a dump truck with mine waste in the new gap in the remains of the Mike Horse dam.

Historic dam progress at the Mike Horse

Story/photos by Roger Dey
 BVD Editor

The work to remove the Mike Horse Mine impoundment in Bear Trap Canyon reached an historic milestone at about 2:30 p.m., Monday, Sept. 28.

Excavators broke through the Mike Horse Dam, exposing the native soil at bottom of the

canyon to open air for the first time in 75 years.

Construction of the dam, which contained the contaminated mine tailings from mining operations in the Mike Horse area, began in 1940. In 1975, a June rain storm cut a swath through the dam, carrying contaminants into the Blackfoot River.

"It's about the 75th anniversary of when the dam started being built and the 40th anniversary of when it blew out, and we have it back open," said Shellie Haaland, project construction manager for the Montana Department of Environmental Quality.

By about 5 p.m., workers

See DAM Pg. 4

Lincoln man found guilty of marijuana manufacture pleads guilty to tax evasion, firearms charges

Roger Dey
 BVD Editor

A Lincoln area man arrested in May pleaded guilty Sept. 25 to income tax evasion and two separate counts of being a felon in possession of firearms - nearly a month after a jury found him guilty of the manufacturing marijuana,

Internal Revenue Service

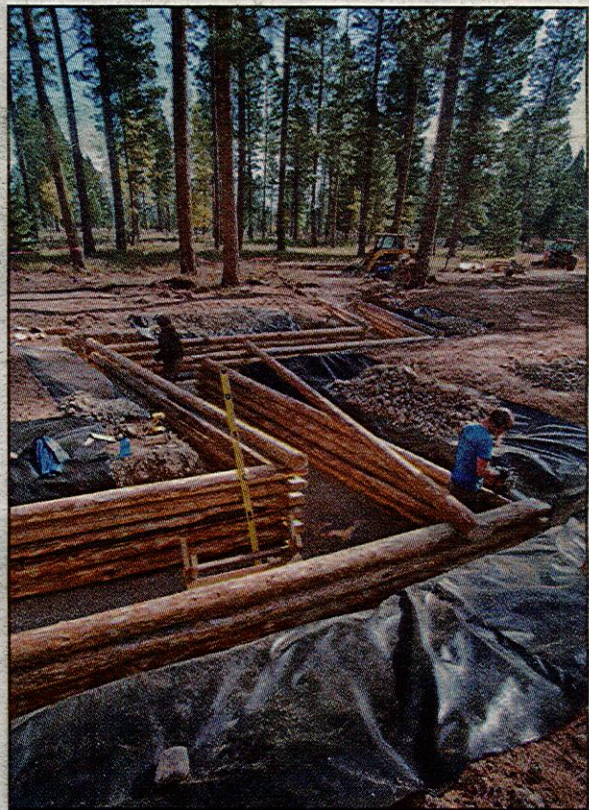
Agents originally arrested Dennis Peiker, 61, on a federal warrant, May 11. Peiker was indicted by a grand jury on tax evasion charges, April 17. The indictment alleged Peiker attempted to evade or defeat payment of income tax for calendar years 2002 through 2009.

Court documents show that Lewis and Clark

County Deputy Brent Colbert, who supported the IRS agents during the arrest, observed six marijuana plants at Peikers residence. A subsequent search of his property May 13 led to the discovery of 190 marijuana plants and 3500 rounds of 5.56 mm ammunition. A second

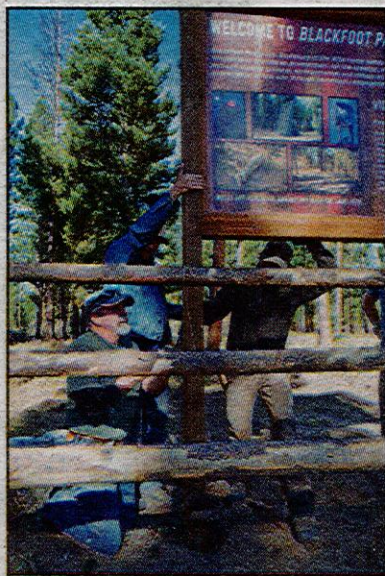
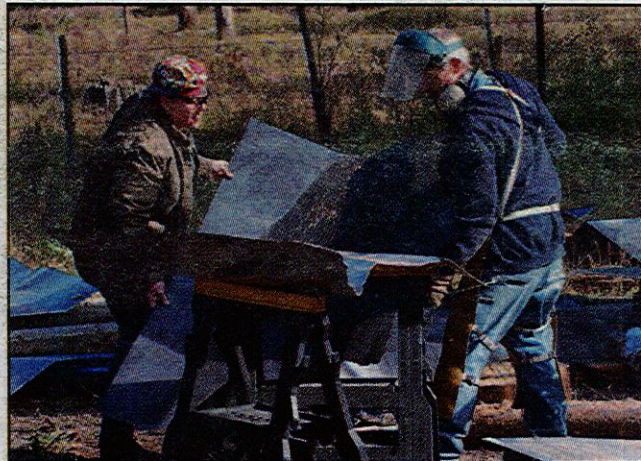
See CHARGES Pg. 4

Work at BPSW nearing completion



◀ Sam Clayton and Mark Jacobs continue to add logs to the walls of their new piece at Blackfoot Pathways: Sculpture in the Wild. Saturday, Sept. 26

▼ Noellynn Pepos and Jim Hewes of Pototmac move part of her piece. Hewes volunteered to sand down the edges of Pepos' formed metal plates before they receive a final powder coated finish.



◀ Kevin O'Dwyer, Mark Jacobs and Sam Clayton help Steve Woodhouse install a new welcome sign at the edge of the BPSW parking lot.

Sculpture in the Wild saw plenty of activity last week as grade school kids from around the region took part in the annual education program designed to get them thinking about artwork and the work that goes into creating it, as well as the history and environment of the Blackfoot Valley. For more information on the program, go to page 8. Oct. 3 marks the official launch of the new sculptures with an artists reception and Jazz at the Teepee Burner, beginning at 2 p.m.

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LOCAL EVENTS

Oct. 3
Official sculpture launch
 Sculpture in the Wild.
 2 p.m.

Oct. 8
Flu clinic
 Lincoln community Hall
 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Oct. 7
Book Discussion:
'True Grit'
 Lincoln Library
 7 p.m.

Oct. 11
Movie Matinee: Rango
 Lincoln Library
 1:30p.m.

Oct. 11
Movie Night: True Grit
 Lincoln Library
 7 p.m.

Oct. 23
Stewghetti
 Lincoln Community Hall
 5 p.m.

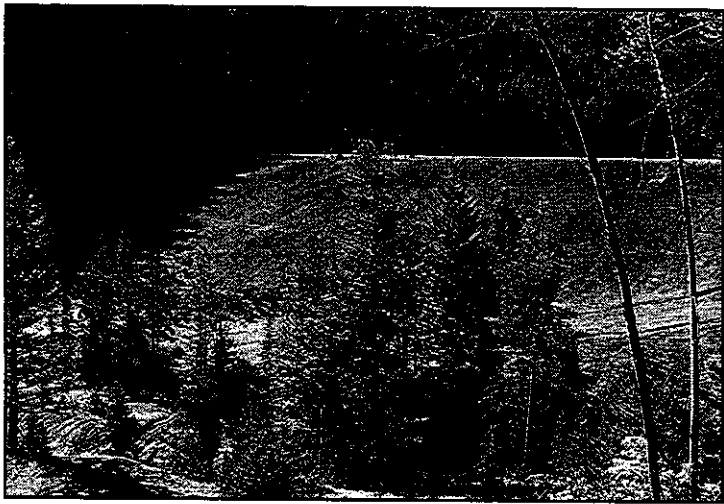
Nov. 7
42nd annual Lincoln Community Benefit
 Lincoln Community Hall
 5 p.m.

Nov. 17
Lincoln School Science Fair
 Lincoln School

Calendar brought to you by Becky



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



The Mike Horse dam as it appeared in 2008.



The last remnants of the dam, Sept. 28, 2015.



Looking north from the impoundment area as an excavator removes tailings where the dam once stood.



An early image from the impoundment area, looking north at the dam under construction in the 1940's.

DAM from page 1

had removed the contaminated 'blue goo' from the center of the drainage outward and had cleared a swath through the old dam, down to native soil, about ten yards wide. Haaland said by next week they should have the entire dam removed.

Above the excavation area, Stream Works of Lincoln has been busy for the past few weeks restoring the streambed and flood plain of Bear Trap Creek.

To date, more than 300,000 cubic yards of contaminated material have been removed from the Bear Trap and Mike Horse drainages, two of the streams that form the headwaters of the Blackfoot River.

Haaland said overall the work to remove the mine waste is on schedule, but since it's getting relatively late in the construction season, they may wait until next year to complete some of the work in the upper end of the Mike Horse drainage that had been planned for this year. They will instead concentrate on removing highly contaminated material from the lower end of the draw, near the juncture with the Bear Trap drainage.

Haaland said they are also looking at removing additional material across one face of Bear Trap canyon where highly erosive, sandy material has been giving them problems.

CHARGES from page 1

search May 14 uncovered several firearms, including three AR-15s, and vacuum-packed marijuana.

A criminal complaint affidavit was filed May 15 for the manufacture of marijuana and for being a felon in possession of firearms. Peiker had previously been found guilty in January 2000 of two counts of willfully filing false income tax returns for 1992 and 1995, felonies that precluded his ownership of firearms.

A Grand Jury indicted Peiker on the marijuana charge in June. Following a trial in August, a jury found Peiker guilty Aug. 25 of manufacturing marijuana with more than 100 plants.

Peiker didn't go to trial for the tax evasion and firearms charges. Court documents show he instead pleaded guilty to the charges as part of plea agreements in which he waived his right to appeal the conviction and sentencing in the marijuana case. Federal prosecutors agreed to recommend concurrent sentences for the three separate cases. According to an Associated Press report, Peiker also agreed to pay nearly \$410,000 in back taxes for the 2002 through 2009 tax years.

Sentencing in the marijuana case is scheduled for Dec. 3 in Great Falls, before U.S. District Judge Brian Morris. Peiker is slated to be sentenced in the tax evasions and firearms cases, April 14, 2016.

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Bid Notice

Lincoln Schools is accepting bids for SNOW REMOVAL services

for the 2015-16 school year. Contractor must provide proof of liability insurance. Specifications may be obtained by contacting Derek Perez, Maintenance Director, Lincoln Schools (362-4201).

Send completed bid to Carla Anderson, Supt., Lincoln Schools, P.O. Box 39, Lincoln, MT 59639.

Bids must be received by Thursday, October 8, 2015.

MNAXLP

BLACKFOOT VALLEY FISHING REPORT



Fishing on the Blackfoot is in Fall mode, which means it is beautiful with the yellow and gold colors to be outside.

As usual with the fickle Blackfoot, the catching is hit and miss.

Plenty of opinions are out there as to why the fish aren't coming to the surface as much, but there is no definite reason. We're starting to see the last of the summer weather for the year as fall quickly approaches, and night time temps drop into the low 20's.

The best fishing seems to be in the evening when the temperatures have warmed up the water. The water level is staying steady above just above 400 but that number is making floating difficult. Reports are that floating from Scotty Brown Bridge to Russell Gates is getting "sketchy." Hence, everybody seems to be doing the River Junction to Scotty Brown float. The areas with large rocks again are difficult to maneuver around, but that is leaving the river excellent for wade fishing.

For dries use some fall colored hoppers, October caddis, tricos, big PMDs, BWOs, elk hair caddis, Chernobyls, Orange Stimulators, parachute adams, and small purple hares. For nymphs, use anything with rubber legs, princes, October caddis pupae and emergers.

Whatever you do: Get Outside! The nice days are numbered.



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