



▲ A crowd of more than 300 people gathers at Steven Siegels newspaper sculpture during a tour of the sculpture park Saturday, Oct. 4.

# 'Well, we did it'

## Blackfoot Pathways: Sculpture in the Wild hosts official opening of sculpture park

Story/photos by Roger Dey  
 BVD Editor

"Well, we did it," Rick Dunkerley said.

The Sculpture in the Wild director was standing with symposium curator Kevin O'Dwyer in the parking area of the newly christened sculpture park just east of Lincoln. Both men's faces beamed with a mixture of excitement, satisfaction, relief and exhaustion as the crowd that showed up for the official opening of the sculpture park Oct. 4 slowly dissipated around them.

What they did was no small thing. In just under a year and a half, with the

help of a cadre of dedicated volunteers and the contributions of dozens of people willing to invest time and money in Lincoln's future, they brought to life an unlikely project in an unlikely place.

Saturday's official opening of Blackfoot Pathways: Sculpture in the Wild provided the opportunity to thank everyone involved and to reflect on the three week symposium that saw some of the world's most well respected environmental sculptors create pieces in Lincoln, in the process creating the first sculpture park of its kind in the U.S.

More than 300 people from the Blackfoot Valley, Helena, Great Falls and Missoula crowded in and around the reassembled base of the old Delaney Mill tepee burner as O'Dwyer, the Irish silversmith and sculptor who first mentioned the idea of such a park here to Dunkerley thanked the community, whose support was unlike anything the artists had seen before.

"Thank you for your support, your passion for this project, your enthusiasm, it's been a wonderful three weeks for all the artists here and I'm sure they'll say the same."

Caleb Fey, director of the Holter Museum of Art in Helena and a dedicated supporter of the project, provided the keynote address for the opening. He too singled out the community support. "The way this community has come together to make this happen is just absolutely fantastic and phenomenal. It's a real testament to what can happen when good ideas get backed by good people. It's amazing,"

Sharing Lincoln's watershed achievement with the state's museum directors at their upcoming meeting is something Fey is looking forward to.

"Thank you for changing the face of the art world in Montana. It's phenomenal, what's going on here."

That's not a small compliment for the community, considering it was a store clerk's reference to Lincoln as a "weird little town" that set Dunkerley, a knifemaker with a history in logging, outfitting and ranching, on the path to pursue the project's development. From that point, he felt it was something that was meant to be, something unique that would honor the area's history, change the downward trajectory of

See SITW, Pg. 7


## LOCAL EVENTS

**Oct. 11**  
**Ponderosa**  
**Snow Warriors**  
**membership dinner**  
 Community Hall  
 6 p.m.

**Oct. 24**  
**Stewghetti Dinner**  
 Community Hall  
 5-7 p.m.

**Oct. 24**  
**Annual Harvest**  
**Dinner & Auction**  
 Ovando School Gym  
 6 p.m.

**Nov. 2**  
**Daylight Savings**  
**Time ends**

**Nov. 4**  
**Election Day**  


**Nov. 8**  
**Community Benefit**  
 Lincoln Community  
 Hall  
 "Newhart"

**Nov. 9**  
**St. Thomas Craft**  
**Bazaar**  
 Four locations in  
 Helmville

**Nov. 11**  
**Veterans Day**  
**Observance & chili feed**  
 11 a.m.  
 Community Hall

Calendar brought to you  
 by Becky



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