

# THE STRAIGHT SHOOTER



## NEWS of ENNIS and the MADISON VALLEY, MONTANA for OCTOBER 2009

*“The best investment on Earth is earth.”*

Louis J. Glickman, real estate mogul/philanthropist

- **NEW “OLD” RESTAURANTS OPEN** – The **Grizzly Bar and Grill** was leased to Chris Leech who opened this past summer, 7 days a week for dinner. They plan to reopen in late May. The old **Howlin’ Mad Moon Resort** is now under new ownership with a new name – the **Driftwater Resort**, with cabins, RV storage and restaurant open year-round.
- **ENNIS HITS 1,000!** There are now 1,000 residents in Ennis (and still 11,000,000 trout!) – but still no traffic lights! This booming metropolis will soon be voting for a new mayor and the current mayor, Ralph Hernandez, has some strong competition.
- **FARMERS MARKET** – September 26<sup>th</sup> was the last day for the weekly market of local vendors held outside at the Lone Elk Mall. It was a huge success this year and was a social “happening” for the community. You could buy great breads, produce, plants, local grass-fed meats, artist products and see all your friends! It was a great idea for Ennis and the Farm to Fork group has big plans for next year. Stay tuned.
- **MADISON VALLEY MEDICAL CENTER** – The new hospital is a designated rural critical access facility and very important to our community. They are currently searching for two new full-time doctors and a CEO. It would be a great opportunity for doctors who love the outdoors and yearn for the lifestyle this valley has to offer. This hospital facility is a major attraction for retirees and second-home buyers in the area. The hospital also welcomes contributions. Contact John Scully at (406) 682-5442 for information.
- **WEATHER** – After record-breaking heat in September, we had a week of record breaking low temperatures and snow fall on October 5, 6, 7! That big-time storm gave us a winter teaser. Now we have had a lovely Indian Summer and are back to winter.



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Don Bowen, Toni Bowen, Jay Willett, Karen Swedman

✚ **FISHING REPORT** - The Madison River Fishing Company says that it's been a great autumn on the fishing front, with an outstanding river flow for this time of year. When the weather turns frigid, you may want to consider spending some time near the wood stove tying up some baetis patterns. They warn you to be sensitive to the spawning activity and consider "how you would feel?" Check out the latest fishing reports at <http://www.mrfc.com/MadisonRiverMontanaFishing/MadisonRiverReport.aspx>.

✚ The Yellowstone Fishing Company has a new CD release, **Fly Fishing the Madison River**. "This DVD covers the Madison River where the variety of hatches are the most prolific, from Yellowstone National Park to the small ranching and fly fishing town of Ennis Montana. In this 'stretch' of river, there are many microhabitats and distribution of insect life throughout the seasons and often during the same time and same section of the river.

✚ "This DVD details the major hatches throughout the seasons. Minor hatches, such as Rhithrogena (March Browns) Skwala, Moth, Green Drakes, Flays etc also emerge each year, some years better than others. Be aware the Madison River is a prolific insect factory so carry the suggested flies in this DVD and we hope it will help you prepare for one of the world's greatest fly fishing rivers. Learn: When, where and how to fish the Madison River; Best flies to use at the best times of year; Fly patterns chapter; and 77 minutes from the top Steward of the Madison River, Craig Matthews.



✚ "Craig Mathews not only lives and breathes on the Madison River, he lives there year round. When investors sought out this prime real estate for development, he ignited the public and various conservation groups to purchase the land to keep access available for all generations of fly fishers. Today his efforts allow not just local fly fishers to fish the Madison but fly fishers from all over the globe to challenge themselves to truly experience the greatest of Montana fly fishing. His enthusiasm is passed on to you in this DVD. Check it out at [www.yellowstoneflyfishing.com](http://www.yellowstoneflyfishing.com)."

➤ **ARROW REAL ESTATE NEWS** – The new website is now in *test mode* and should be launched within two weeks. We are very excited, so check it out at [www.arrowreal.com](http://www.arrowreal.com) in the next couple weeks and give us your feedback. We're proud to announce that Karen Swedman has joined our Arrow Team as a broker associate. You can read about her on our website. She and Jay Willett, another Arrow broker, have a property management company, Apex Management, [www.apexmontana.com](http://www.apexmontana.com), separate from Arrow, and they provide excellent service for owners and for renters.

➤ **CURRENT REAL ESTATE MARKET UPDATE** – There has been a flurry of activity in October, which is pretty typical. According to the Bozeman Daily Chronicle, unemployment in the Madison Valley is just 4.8%. However, the majority of our buyers are typically from out of state, where unemployment is high and home values are low. There are signs of improvement. The current Sales figures for the Madison Valley (including Virginia City) **from January 1, 2009 to date**, with data from the Southwest Montana MLS, are as follows:

**LAND: 13 parcels sold, 3 sales pending.**

**RESIDENTIAL: 18 homes sold and 7 sales pending.**

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➤ **HUNTING** – Big Game Season opened on Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. We have had some cold weather in October which usually brings the game down out of the mountains. Last hunting season was so warm that the animals just stayed up high until the season was nearly over! Several herds of elk have been spotted lately. The mountains are snow covered down to the foot hills. Reports are very good. Hunting Fever is on!

➤ **HUNTERS FEED and CHILI COOKOFF** – The 24<sup>th</sup> annual Hunters Feed was Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>. There were nearly 30 wild game dishes offered up all along Main Street. Arrow Real Estate again won the Chili Cook Off – with Toni Bowen’s Tequila Elk Chili. The recipe is on our Website in the Wild Woman Cookbook. The DiIorio’s at the Claim Jumper Saloon won Best Overall for their Moose Lasagna and Most Unusual for their Mountain Lion Verde.



➤ **WILD MUSTANGS IN THE MADISON VALLEY** – The Spanish Q Ranch, owned by Greg and Karen Rice, just west of the Golf Course, will be one of 20 facilities bidding to house wild horses. The BLM’s wild horse and burro program manages about 37,000 wild horses and burros. The Spanish Q Ranch could soon be home to as many as 1,500 of those mustangs, as early as December. Some people have voiced concerns that the Spanish Q property cannot support that many horses. If the environmental assessment goes through, Spanish Q would be the first long-term pasture in the Rocky Mountains.

➤ **MADISON VALLEY WETLANDS RESTORATION PROJECT** – The biggest landscape-scale project involving wetland restoration in the state is happening right here in the MV on the Granger Ranches south of Ennis. Jeff Lazlo, the owner, partnered with the Montana Wetlands Legacy to conserve and restore about 8,000 acres of his and another landowner’s wetlands along O’Dell Creek. It is one part of a larger MV restoration effort which includes about 800,000 acres of prime wetland and riparian habitat owned by eight local ranches. Wildlife has begun to return to the area, such as geese, loons, swans and sandhill cranes. In 2005, only 11 species of birds were documented in the area. Four years later, 90 were recorded. They project it’s only going to get better. For more information: [http://fwp.mt.gov/news/article\\_3692.aspx](http://fwp.mt.gov/news/article_3692.aspx)

➤ **MT PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENTS** - All Montana property owners recently received a 2009 property assessment notice from the MT Dept. of Revenue and about half saw their tax liability increase. Montana reappraises property every 6 years. The reassessment is used to recalibrate the property taxes property owners pay. The calculation is complicated and involves a massive amount of data that includes home and property sale prices as well as appraisal figures. The last reassessment was done in 2002. The current assessment is based on market values as of July 1, 2008. The MT legislature wanted to phase in the new property assessments so property owners wouldn’t see such a sudden and dramatic increase in their taxes since property values increased dramatically from 2002 to 2008. The MT Dept. of Revenue provides a calculator on their website that can aid in figuring out what the new property assessment will mean for this year’s taxes. Have questions? Call the county at (406) 843-5335 or go to <http://mt.gov/revenue/forindividuals/property/reappraisal/calculating.asp>.

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- **MONTANA GUN CONTROL** – The Montana Shooting Sports Association filed suit on October 1<sup>st</sup> in the US Supreme Court. They hope to win a ruling that would limit the application and reach of federal rules over state business. They are challenging the right of the federal government to oversee gun sales in MT. The Montana Legislature passed a bill which went into effect on Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>, known as the Montana Firearms Freedom Act, which declared that Montana held authority over guns made in the state. Learn more about it at <http://data.opi.state.mt.us/BILLS/2009/BillHtml/HB0246.htm>.
- **SMOKELESS MONTANA** – The state went smoke-free on Thursday, October 1, 2009. That means it's safer to go to bars now. Several of the restaurants in Ennis are connected to smoky bars which have kept some people away. Now you can eat your meal without soaking up the smoke.
- **MONTANA TRIVIA** - The Montana State Legislature only meets in regular session for 90 working days in every odd-numbered year. It is required to do so by state law and the state Constitution. Since 1889, the Legislature has met in [special session](#) more than 30 times. All were convened by the Governor. Legislators have never successfully petitioned to call a special session. And in 1992, Montanans voted to limit the number of terms that legislators and other state officials may serve. As a result of these [term limits](#), an individual may serve as a state representative or senator for no more than 8 years in a 16-year period. Maybe the federal government should pattern themselves after Montana!
- **YOU KNOW YOU'RE FROM MONTANA WHEN...** You wave at every truck because you recognize the dogs in the back, or you are on a dirt road, and that's just what you do.

**Morning Mist over the Madison Valley  
October 2009**



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