

THE STRAIGHT SHOOTER



NEWS of ENNIS and the MADISON VALLEY, MONTANA for NOVEMBER 2009

“The best investment on Earth is earth.”

Louis J. Glickman, real estate mogul/philanthropist

- **ENNIS NEWS** - John Clark, an Ennis native and long-time town commissioner, was elected in a landslide victory. One issue on the horizon that would impact the town's budget is a Resort Tax. Ennis is reconsidering a Resort Tax and one good reason for having the tax is that it is tax money that is raised in the community and stays in the community. The lawyer who wrote the



legislation for the state allowing resort communities and areas to pass a local tax has been hired by Ennis with grant money from the MT Dept. of Commerce. She stated that the Resort Tax issue will be on the ballot next year. A task force has been formed to sort out the details of the tax such as what will be taxed, what months of the year, and how the revenue would be used. The law requires at least 5% of the tax revenue to be used to offset property taxes, and could even be more.

- **DOC LOSEE TURNS 90** – One of the most well known and beloved residents, Ronald Losee, better known to everyone as Doc, turned 90 and his birthday party filled the reception area at the Madison Valley Medical Center. Doc Losee and his wife Olive, along with 2 children showed up in Ennis in 1949 from back east. Doc saw to the building of the old hospital and the evolution of rural medicine in the Madison Valley. Doc is internationally known for his special orthopedic techniques and has hosted and trained physicians from all over the world. If you want to learn more about Doc Losee and the early years of Ennis and the Madison Valley, get a copy of the book, “Doc.” It is MUST reading for anyone who loves this valley. Check it out at: <http://www.amazon.com/Doc-R-E-Losee-M/dp/1558213236>. And speaking of hospitals, a new website is up for the Madison Valley Medical Center Foundation. For information go to: <http://www.madisonvalleymedicalcenterfoundation.org>.

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Don Bowen, Toni Bowen, Jay Willett, Karen Swedman

➤ **WEATHER** – Every day is different, but Friday the 13th was a spectacular day with blue skies, sunshine, 28°, 6-10 inches of fluffy new snow and no wind! A perfect day for a little cross country skiing across the golf course. What a view! The prediction for the rest of the month was fairly mild and they were right, for a change!

➤ **WILD MUSTANGS IN THE MADISON VALLEY** – No decision yet as to how many wild mustangs will be allowed on Rice's Spanish Q Ranch. The BLM is recommending no more than 1000 mustangs. **However**.... Our local Ennis High School *Lady Mustangs* Volleyball Team won Western C Divisional crown and then went on to win the All Class State Volleyball Tournament in Bozeman! This is a first for Ennis and a very big deal!



✚ **FISHING REPORT** - Dan Delekta, the fishing guru from Beartooth Fly Fishing, <http://beartoothflyfishing.com/flyfishingreports/uppermadisonriver.htm>, says, Go for it! He's finding fish in the darker/deeper spots on the bank, the middle chop water and in any big deep holes. We've had some mild days with not much wind, so just put on your long johns and try some of his Delectable specials to lure those big ones out.

➤ **MOONLIGHT BASIN RESORT** – The Bozeman Daily Chronicle is reporting big troubles for Moonlight. It was recently reported that our district judge, Loren Tucker, would be deciding whether Lehman Brothers would be allowed to take control and put a new manager in place. Then on November 19th they reported that Moonlight is seeking bankruptcy protection. They say it was a necessary decision and will give them time to put a new business plan together. But Moonlight is likely to go further into debt in order to get up and running for this ski season, beginning December 12th. They employ 250 seasonal and year-around employees and management feels bankruptcy was in the best interest of the Moonlight Basin family, including creditors, employees, customers, suppliers, home owners and the Montana communities in which Moonlight Basin operates. Our valley will be affected by their future and we wish them success in their restructure. Read the Chronicle story at <http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/articles/2009/11/20/news/300moonlight.txt>.

➤ **ARROW REAL ESTATE NEWS** – The new website is now UP AND RUNNING! We have launched a really innovative and dynamic website that will be much more relevant – full of information and resources, photos and market statistics. We are very excited, so check it out at www.arrowreal.com and give us your feedback. We'd love to hear your comments. Winter traffic in town has been limited, but what we do get can be colorful! Sometimes it's just a local cowboy and cowgirl going by in their wagon! This one is Teri Freeman from the Rusty Cowboy – riding with her own rusty cowboy, Ron Dakotah. The Arrow Real Estate office will begin winter hours on December 4th and the front office and entrance will be closed. But Jay Willett and Karen Swedman will operating from their office at the side entrance. Business will be pretty much as usual as Don and Toni Bowen will be running the business remotely from their place in New Mexico. Yup, Snowbirds.



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- **CURRENT REAL ESTATE MARKET UPDATE** – There has been a flurry of activity in November and we’ve experienced increased web traffic, property showings and purchase offers, far exceeding last year at this time. According to the Bozeman Daily Chronicle, unemployment in the Madison Valley is just 4.8%. Read what the National Association of Realtors has to say about home sales in 2010: <http://www.marketwatch.com/story/realtors-predict-15-rise-in-home-sales-next-year-2009-11-13>. NAR says that first-time buyers accounted for 47 % of home purchases between July of 2008 and June of 2009. That’s the largest share of first-time home buyers in more than 18 years. Locally, as of November 27, there are 396 vacant land parcels and 115 residential listings for a total of **511 properties listed**. Current sales in the Madison Valley (including Virginia City, Harrison, Cardwell) **from January 1, 2009 to date**, with data from the Southwest Montana MLS, are as follows: **LAND: 12 parcels sold, 4 sales pending. RESIDENTIAL: 24 homes sold and 3 sales pending.**

- **HUNTING** – Reports from hunters and the Ranchlands Group is that there are definitely fewer elk this year. There is a fairly strong consensus that the increasing wolf population is responsible for the decreasing elk population. We’ve sure seen a lot of legs sticking up out of pickups, though!



- **WILD WOMAN CAMP** – It’s time for you “wild women” or wild women “wannabees” to start thinking about summer camp. The fabulous program put on by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks called “Becoming an Outdoors Woman” is a MUST! Women wanting to learn more about the Montana outdoors can spend 3 days with 99 other “out there” women in a great Montana setting and for a nominal fee. Check out the BOW workshops at <http://fwp.mt.gov> under the Education tab. They also put on challenging “winter camps.”
- **CHRISTMAS STROLL** – The annual Christmas Stroll will take place on Friday, December 4th, with the shops on Main Street open and hosting strollers from 3 to 8 PM. This also fits right into the current “Buy Local” campaign. This old fashioned tradition has something for the whole family – Christmas treats, pictures with Santa, Christmas stories for children, roasted chestnuts, live music, special gallery events and more. The Lions Club Park by the Madison River will be lit for the holiday season.
- **MADISON VALLEY MEDICAL CENTER** – A new CEO has been hired! Tom Mitchell, from Utah, has experience running rural hospitals and hiring physicians – two important aspects of this position. This is a major step for the hospital and the community.
- **HOME BUYER TAX CREDIT** - President Obama recently signed an expanded version of the \$8,000 first-time homebuyer tax credit that was set to expire on November 30. “Although the tax credit remains at \$8,000 for homebuyers that have not owned a primary residence in the last 3 years, it has been expanded to include a \$6,500 tax credit for homebuyers that have lived in their current primary residence for at least 5 consecutive years out of the 8 years. Under the old rules, move-up homebuyers did not qualify.” Now certain existing home owners may be eligible for a tax credit. Both categories of homebuyers still must qualify within the income limits, effective dates, types of homes allowable and tax circumstances. So this could be a good time to take advantage of some of the great deals out there. For more information, go to: www.federalhousingtaxcredit.com or pick up handouts in the Arrow office.

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- **MONTANA TRIVIA** – In Montana, the word “ditch” can be used to order a drink. It means, “with water.” “I’d like a Jack Daniel’s ditch, please” means, “I’d like a Jack Daniels and water.” In fact, all you really have to ask for is a “Jack Ditch” or even just “a Ditch.” Try it the next time you find yourself in a Montana saloon. The word comes from the fact that originally, they actually used real “ditch” water in the drinks. Montana is **still** the *wild west*.



**Resident antelope herd -
in our back yard!**

- **MONTANA LAWS** – Some strange laws still on the books proclaim that it is illegal for married women to go fishing alone on Sundays. And it is illegal for unmarried women to fish alone, at all! How do you fish**men** and fish**women** feel about that?!
- **YOU KNOW YOU’RE FROM MONTANA WHEN...**Starting in 3rd grade, you began learning what to do when you see a bear or a mountain lion!

Beautiful winter sights in the Madison Valley



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and the greatest compliment you can give us.***

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