

# THE STRAIGHT SHOOTER



## NEWS of ENNIS and the MADISON VALLEY, MONTANA for JANUARY 2010

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

Louis J. Glickman, real estate mogul/philanthropist

- **ENNIS NEWS** - Farmers Markets are hugely popular in cities and towns around the world. Now Ennis can claim their own successful Montana-style version. The Madison Farm to Fork group which started the farmers market project in 2009, have big plans for 2010. The group is erecting a large greenhouse on land at the Ennis Hot Springs where they will not only grow plants but will also begin a Farm-to-School program. When summer comes again to the Madison Valley, you will find crowds of residents and visitors stuffing their market bags full of fresh veggies, local eggs, locally-raised meats, baked goods and crafts from vendor stalls on Saturday mornings at the Lone Elk Mall. Make sure you make this Saturday “happening” a high priority when you visit downtown Ennis this summer. Check out their website at, <http://www.madisonfarmtofork.com/>.
- **SUN RANCH** – The Bozeman Daily Chronicle reported on Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> that the Sun Ranch has been sold to a partnership headed by Richard C. Adkerson, CEO of Freeport-McMoRan, an international gold and copper mining company based in Phoenix, AZ. According to the Chronicle, the 18,500-acre ranch sold for **\$42 million**. The former owner, Roger Lang had purchased the ranch in 1998 from actor Steven Seagal. During the 12 years that Mr. Lang owned Sun Ranch, he put roughly 98% of the acreage into conservation easement. He was a major supporter of conserving the Madison Valley and we wish him well. For more information on the Sun Ranch sale, check it out at, <http://bozemandailychronicle.com/articles/2010/02/02/news/200ranch.txt>.
- **WEATHER** – The month of January was a little warmer than the average high and a little colder than the average low. The average temperature in Ennis for the month of January was **26.6°**, with a high of **47.6°** and a low of **-13.9°**. The precipitation was **0.16 inches** and the average wind speed was only **8.1 mph!** The Madison River continues to freeze and thaw, presenting an ever changing face. The mountain snowpack is in the range of 75 to 80% of average.



**ARROW REAL ESTATE**→ 219 E. Main Street→ POB 546→ Ennis, MT 59729  
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Don Bowen, Toni Bowen, Jay Willett, Karen Swedman

- **FISHING REPORT** - The most current fishing reports for the Madison River were posted on February 2 by Fins & Feathers in Bozeman, <http://www.finsandfeathersonline.com/>. They said “there is lots of ice on the **Upper Madison**. Between Hebgen and Quake Lake can be productive all winter with little midge nymph patterns trailed behind a stonefly or worm. Red is usually a good color here in winter and ice is not much of a problem. Getting to the river when the snow is deep can be a challenge. The water around Reynolds Pass and 3 Dollar Bridge has been good as well. The same types of small midge nymphs work well there too. This is also one of the best places to find rising fish this time of year, especially if the temperature gets close to freezing. As for the rest of the river, there is usually some open water to fish up around Varney. Stonefly nymphs, worms, eggs and small beadhead nymphs are the usual winter fare.” The Upper Madison will be closed for a few months starting late February, as



Bundled up for cold weather

they have done for several years, in order to protect spawning Rainbow and Cutthroat trout and nesting Canada Geese. Fins & Feathers reports on the **Lower Madison** that, “warmer days have made for good fishing, and midge hatches have been bringing fish to the surface during the afternoon. If you find a pod of rising fish, then try throwing something like a Griffiths Gnat or Miracle Midge. The usual crayfish, worms and midge nymphs will get

trout down in the deeper buckets. If you head to the Lower Madison this time of year, expect to see some shelf ice. If you see anchor ice, you can probably find better things to do with your time.” *Maybe it’s time to stay home by the fire and tie some flies!*

- **CURRENT REAL ESTATE MARKET UPDATE** - January was another busy month at Arrow Real Estate, which is an encouraging predictor for the 2010 market. Arrow Real Estate January Sales included a home in Troutdale, a home on the Golf Course and a Pintail Ridge Lot. Arrow Real Estate listed 4 vacant lots and 3 homes in January. The statistics for the Madison Valley (including Virginia City, Harrison, Pony, and Cardwell), for the month of **January 2010**, are as follows:

**LAND: 3 parcels sold, 2 pending, 385 listed.**

**RESIDENTIAL: 2 homes sold, 3 pending, 99 listed.**

- **YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK** – For the fourth time since 1990, Yellowstone National Park has begun the lengthy and expensive process of figuring out how many snowmobiles are healthy for American’s first national park. The Bozeman Daily Chronicle published this story on January 29<sup>th</sup>, stating that the park is currently operating under an interim winter-use plan that allows 318 snowmobiles in the park each day. Up to 78 snowcoaches are also permitted. For more information on this controversial issue, check it out at the Bozeman Daily Chronicle, <http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/articles/2010/01/30/news/200snomo.txt>, or go to <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/yell> and select “Yellowstone national Park.”

- **MONTANA TRIVIA** – Did you know that the average square mile of land contains 1.4 elk, 1.4 pronghorn antelope, and 3.3 deer?

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➤ **REAL ESTATE TIPS: 5 Reasons Why Refinancing May be a Good Option Now.**

According to RISMedia, consumers considering a home refinance should begin the process now. [Bills.com](http://Bills.com), one of the leading resources for free, objective and expert money advice, states that “Market conditions have aligned to make this a perfect environment for home refinancing:

- 1) Interest rates continue to hover around all-time lows...even a ½ point to a 1-point drop in rate will generally make refinancing worthwhile.
- 2) Low fixed interest rates make converting from an adjustable rate loan into a fixed 15- or 30-year loan a smart move.
- 3) The current difference between fixed 15-year and 30-year interest rates is significant, making refinancing into a shorter-term loan a compelling opportunity.
- 4) FHA efficiency mortgages provide consumers with an opportunity to refinance into a loan that will help pay for home efficiency improvements.
- 5) Those homeowners whose equity situation has steadily deteriorated, leaving them with little or no equity in their homes, should ask their lender for help.

For more information, visit [www.bills.com](http://www.bills.com), where consumers can ask any money question of *human* experts and receive personalized advice.

➤ **MOONLIGHT BASIN RESORT** – According to news on their website, the judge approved funding necessary to operate Moonlight Basin resort for the next two ski seasons, while they work on a comprehensive restructuring plan. Everything is up and running with “business as usual.” So be sure and add a Big Sky ski trip on your winter To Do list. Keep up with what’s happening at, [http://www.moonlightbasin.com/site/pressroom\\_pr.html?](http://www.moonlightbasin.com/site/pressroom_pr.html?)

➤ **MONTANA PLACE NAMES** – If you’ve ever wondered about the origin of some of the place names in Montana, the Montana Historical Society and the Montana State Library have a Website for you: <http://mtplacenames.org>. Website visitors can search for specific place names, key words, phrases or personal names. You can learn more of the history of the Madison Valley by looking up some of the common names in the valley, such as, Ennis, McAllister, Cameron, O’Dell, Varney, Jeffers, etc. Go exploring!

➤ **YOU KNOW YOU’RE FROM MONTANA WHEN...**You attend a formal event in your best clothes, your finest jewelry...and your Sorels.

*Thank you in advance for your personal referrals.  
Your referrals are the lifeblood of our business  
and the greatest compliment you can give us.*

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