

MADISON COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

August / September - 2009

by Steve DiGiovanna Communications / DES2

“a rumor without a leg to stand on will always get around any other way possible”



A contractor out of Dillon puts the finishing touches on the foundation site for the new repeater tower being installed at the Madison County Sierra Site. The location is in the Ruby Mountains between Cottonwood Creek and Stone Creek.

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON I.M. TOWER SITES

Construction crews broke ground on the new Sierra Peak Interoperability Montana tower site located in the Ruby Mountains. The site sits on BLM ground near the south end of the Ruby Range at 8,130' elevation. Computerized propagation maps indicate that the site will service most of the upper Ruby drainage / Sweetwater area, the west end of Madison County from Dillon up I-15 to I-90, and a large area of the Ruby Valley.

The site also will provide a redundant “I.M. loop ring” into the Dillon dispatch and beyond - and will help connect Madison County with the state system. The site is being purchased through an Interoperability Montana grant and will cost about \$310,000 to complete. There will be a 100' repeater tower, radio shelter structure and a back-up emergency power supply when the site is finished. Completion of the project is scheduled for late summer 2010.

The Virginia City Pass repeater site near the racetrack is scheduled for construction in early October 2009.

Sheriff's Office Communication Department



CONGRATULATIONS

Lynda Holt

Madison County Communication Officer Lynda Holt has been promoted to Assistant Terminal Agency Coordinator (TAC Officer). Lynda will now assist Madison County TAC Officer Janet Fortner with Communication Center Supervision and TAC Officer duties.

Lynda has completed the additional training required by the State of Montana and has been officially certified as the back-up TAC Officer for Madison County.

Lynda lives in Sheridan with her husband and youngest daughter. She has another daughter who just finished Army boot camp in Jackson South Carolina and a son in the Job Corps in Anaconda. Before coming to Madison County, Lynda has previously worked for JC Penny's in Butte as a Supervisor and Floor Manager.

Lynda will be scheduled as the weekend Supervisor, opposite TAC Officer Janet Fortner, a 30+ year veteran in dispatch, who is the Monday - Friday TAC Officer Supervisor in the Communication Center.

This new position allows for an immediate supervisor to be on duty in the Communication Center each day of the week to assist with effective continuity of operations on a daily basis.

madison.homestead.com

one year anniversary

The Madison County EMERGENCY WEB-SITE was put into operation shortly after the Hebgen Dam scare last year. The county recognized the need for a site that could keep residents aware of the emergencies, disasters and daily situations that affect life in Madison County.

It is the intention of the site to be informative on a number of related topics, including emergencies - and to help keep community awareness at a higher level for the possible "*potential disasters*" we could face at any moment.

Potential emergencies include: earthquakes, fires, severe thunderstorms, windstorms, hail storms and blizzards, vehicle accidents and situations creating road closures, hazardous material spills, law enforcement operations affecting the public, utility or water interruptions, major road construction operations, Public Health issues and Red Flag fire-fighting warnings.

A challenge any web-site like ours has is - how do you keep people coming back? We have discussed this issue over and over and the obvious answer is - make it an interesting "quick read" . Put something new to view every day - and when possible, include residents and workers from our county in the site.

Additionally, we want to allow those who visit our site to get the flavor of the county through interesting pictures and short bits of emergency and public interest related information and occurrences. Photos of recent emergencies and the picturesque beauty of the county has been very well received.

The web-site has been a huge success for the county and the fact that there have been more than 24,000 hits on the site in less than a year speaks for itself. We want to thank all of those who have contributed input and also encourage you to continue to visit the site regularly. Thank You!!

Check out the emergency web-site at: madison.homestead.com