

THE STRAIGHT SHOOTER



NEWS of ENNIS and the MADISON VALLEY, MONTANA for the month of FEBRUARY 2012

Trout live in nice neighborhoods.

➤ **MADISON VALLEY “HAPPENINGS”** → **Wanted! New Hospital Director** for the Madison Valley Medical Center. There must be a hospital administrator out there who has always wanted to move



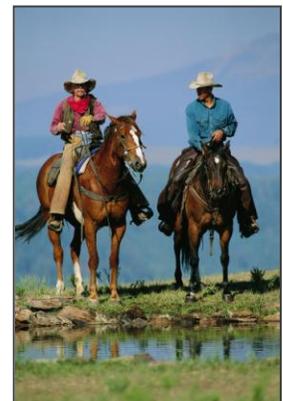
to Montana and live the good life, while actually making a living! Now is your opportunity to make a major life change and relocate to “the last best place” where the people are friendly and the fish are waiting. Check out the hospital and make contact through <http://www.mvmedcenter.org/>. →

Local musicians are jamming at the **Gravel Bar** on Saturday nights and strumming up some good

Bluegrass tunes so grab your banjo and join in. → Water experts are recommending that everyone should have their well tested annually for contaminants such as bacteria and nitrate levels. Free test kits are available at the **Madison Conservation District** office in the Lone Elk Mall in Ennis. The MCD is reimbursing well owners \$25 towards the testing. There are no government requirements in MT so it is the responsibility of well owners to test their water quality and make sure it is safe. → **Snowboarding competition** at Moonlight Basin sponsored by Volcom was a big hit. Check out all the activities in Big sky at: <http://www.bigskyresort.com/> and <http://www.moonlightbasin.com/site/index.html>.



➤ **MADISON COUNTY**→ See interesting statistics and news for **Madison County** on their official website at: <http://madison.mt.gov/aboutus/>. → No decision has yet been made as to the winning location for the new **Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame**. But you can keep up with the progress on their website at : <http://www.montanacowboyfame.com/155901.html>. You can also nominate your favorite cowboy to their Hall of Fame!



ARROW REAL ESTATE→ 219 E. Main Street→ POB 546→ Ennis, MT 59729
(406) 682-4290→ (800) 497-4290→ www.arrowreal.com→ arrow@3rivers.net.
Don Bowen, Toni Bowen, Jay Willett, Karen Swedman

➤ **MONTANA NEWS** → 2012 marks the Twentieth Anniversary of “*A River Runs Through It!*” Read the fascinating article that describes how this movie changed Montana – by drawing attention to Montana’s incredible pristine beauty and boosting the sport of fly fishing, real estate sales and tourism at

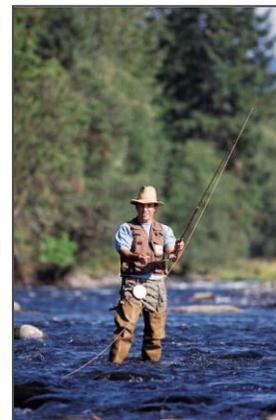
http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/article_b07d873c-6039-11e1-b043-001871e3ce6c.html.

Robert Redford’s movie, “*The Horse Whisperer*” also drew fans to Montana, but nothing like the magic of “*A River Runs Through It.*”

→ The US Supreme Court blocked a Montana court ruling upholding limits on corporate campaign spending. Montana voters passed, by initiative, the Corrupt Practices Act in 1912 to combat the widespread political corruption in the state by the owners of copper mining companies, known as the Copper Kings. For the first time in 100 years Montanans won’t be able to rely on our **corporate spending ban** to safeguard the integrity of our elections. Read more on this important ruling at:

http://missoulia.com/news/local/supreme-court-lifts-montana-s-ban-on-corporate-campaign-spending/article_1677fad5c-59c2-11e1-acae-001871e3ce6c.html#ixzz1nbvq4dRV, and at

http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/politics/article_1fd7ab40-59c7-11e1-94c2-0019bb2963f4.html.



➤ **MARCH EVENTS** → More snow, more bluegrass music at the Gravel Bar, more skiing at Big Sky, more snowmobiling in Yellowstone Park, or just more cuddling by a roaring fire with a good book and glass of wine, letting the outside world go by. *Ahhh.....*

➤ **HUNTING REPORT** → Montana's new **March 15 deadline** to apply for 2012 **deer and elk hunting** permits is accompanied by a convenient new 8-page application packet. The packet is available at all license providers and online at http://fwp.mt.gov/news/newsReleases/hunting/nr_1689.html.



➤ **FISHING REPORT** → Montana FWP hosted the first of four public meetings in their process of developing a **Recreation Management Plan for the Madison River**. The main concern of the 70 concerned citizens who showed up to participate was whether the plan would restrict fly fishing guides and outfitters. A Citizen Advisory Committee will be created with a deadline of March 16 for accepting volunteers. They will be gathering public input to help the agency draft a management plan. The goal of the plan is to help preserve the quality of the recreational experiences and protect natural resources along the Madison River, one of the most heavily fished rivers in the state. For more information on the plan, visit <http://fwp.mt.gov/recreation/management/madison/>.

Check out fishing reports at:

✚ Kelly Galloup’s Slide Inn at: <http://www.slideinn.com/blog/category/fishing-report/>.

✚ Dan Delekta’s report at <http://beartoothflyfishing.com/flyfishingreports/uppermadisonriver.htm>.

✚ The Tackle Shop’s Orvis report at http://www.orvis.com/fishing_report.aspx?locationid=5974

✚ The Madison Valley Ranch at <http://www.madisonvalleyranch.com/blog/>

✚ Joe Dilschneider’s Montana Trout Stalkers at <http://www.montanatrout.com/>

✚ Madison River Fishing Company at: <http://www.mrfc.com/MadisonRiverMontanaFishing/MadisonRiverReport.aspx>.

✚ Yellowstone Fly Fishing at <http://www.yellowstoneflyfishing.com/madisonreport.htm>.

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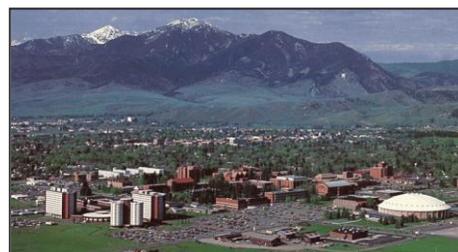
➤ **WEATHER** → Still waiting for more snow in the Madison Valley. Even though we are not there, our Ennis contacts report daily on this very strange winter. Moonlight Basin at Big Sky reports a base of **61"**and more on the way. The statistics show the **February** temperatures in Ennis as: a high of **48°** and a low of **-1°**, with an average high of **39°** and an average low of **15°**. Better than lots of other places in the country! Our recorded **February** precipitation totaled **.87"**, which is actually double the average.

➤ **REAL ESTATE TIP** → **Bozeman, MT – A GOOD PLACE FOR TECH STARTUPS** According to an article in the December 2011 issue of Inc. Magazine, Bozeman is an ideal place to start a technology business. The article claims, *"For a number of tech start-ups, it's the Gallatin Valley--not the Silicon Valley--that offers the best environment for growth."* So we are thinking that tech entrepreneurs should start scoping out the Bozeman area for their business locations and the Madison Valley (just 50 miles away) is included in that Greater Bozeman Area. To read the **Inc.** article, go to:

<http://www.inc.com/christina-desmarais/new-valley-for-tech-startups.html>. Read another great article at http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/opinions/article_5b918756-db40-11e0-96a1-001cc4c002e0.html.

Some of the reasons people and businesses are choosing SW Montana are:

1. Best environment for growth
2. Fantastic schools, small classes
3. Unbelievable opportunities for recreation
4. A better, simpler way of life
5. Relaxed environment – no hustle and bustle
6. Happy, friendly, sensible people
7. Good university
8. Great medical facilities
9. Clean air and water
10. Natural beauty everywhere you look
11. Great airport in Bozeman, serviced by major and regional airlines
12. Four distinct seasons, with lots of sunshine, low humidity
13. Attracts top-quality people who value what Montana has to offer
14. Excellent cultural opportunities – museums, opera, symphony, theatre, music....
15. Montana is what the United States used to be!
16. So many more reasons, there is no way to list them all!



Bozeman, MT

➤ **CURRENT REAL ESTATE MARKET**→ Washington, DC, February 27, 2012. Pending home sales are on an upward trend, which has been uneven but meaningful since reaching a cyclical low last April, and are well above a year ago, according to the **National Association of Realtors®**. The **Pending Home Sales Index**, a forward-looking indicator based on contract signings, rose 2.0% to 97.0 in January from a downwardly revised 95.1 in December and is 8.0% higher than January 2011 when it was 89.8. The data reflects contracts but not closings. The January index is the highest since April 2010 when it reached 111.3 as buyers were rushing to take advantage of the home buyer tax credit. **Lawrence Yun**, NAR chief economist, said this is a hopeful indicator going into the spring home-buying season. *"Given more favorable housing market conditions, the trend in contract activity implies we are on track for a more meaningful sales gain this year. With a sustained downtrend in unsold inventory, this would bring about a broad price stabilization or even modest national price growth, of course with local variations."* The PHSI in the Northeast rose 7.6% to 78.2 in January and is 9.8% above a year ago. In the Midwest the index declined 3.8% to 88.1 but is 10.8% higher than January 2011. Pending home sales in the South increased 7.7% to an index of 109.1 in January and are 10.5% above a year ago. In the West the index fell 4.4% in January to 101.9 but is still 0.7% above January 2011.

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➤ **PROPERTY OF THE MONTH** → **Best Bargain in the Valley!** Two adjoining parcels totaling 138.5 acres with highway access, close to power and phone + a 400 SF dry cabin along Mile Creek, near Reynolds Pass. Great recreational area, close to Yellowstone Park, the Madison River, numerous lakes and National Forest Service land. Just **\$225,000!** Taxes just \$405. (MLS #182052)



➤ **REAL ESTATE MARKET STATISTICS** → The Arrow office has been quite busy through February, with Holly, Jay and Karen keeping up with calls and showings. Toni and Don stay busy with marketing, emails and customer service from their Las Cruces winter home, as Zillow and Trulia continue to feed us good leads from all over the country. The **Southwest Montana Multiple Listing** statistics for the Madison Valley (including Ennis, Cameron, McAllister, Norris, Virginia City, Harrison, Pony, Whitehall and Cardwell), for the month of **February 2012** are as follows:

- **LAND: 329 vacant lots listed** (\$8,400 - \$2,490,000), **3 pending sales** (\$49,000 - \$149,000), **1 lot sold in 2012** (\$125,000).
- **HOMES: 137 homes listed** (\$79,000 - \$3,250,000), **14 pending sales** (\$38,000 - \$495,000), **6 homes sold in 2012** (\$118,000 - \$1,500,000).
- **RANCHES: 6 listed** (\$949,000 - \$9,950,000), **1 pending sale, 0 ranches sold in 2012** (\$0)

➤ **YOU KNOW YOU'RE FROM MONTANA WHEN...** you pronounce creek, "**crick.**"

➤ **MONTANA TRIVIA** → From December 8, 1995 to May 28, 1999 Montana's daytime automobile speed limits were "reasonable and prudent", according to interpretation by Highway Patrol officers. Fines were increased and motorists were advised to drive carefully according to existing weather and road conditions. American speed enthusiasts were delighted and the state's Interstate highways got a reputation as the **Montanabahn**. Congress was not amused, and neither were many Montana residents. With a little help in potential Federal funding restrictions, speed limits were restored. Montana's maximum speed limit is now **75 MPH** on the Interstates - check with Montana DOT for current speed limits and road conditions.

Thanking you in advance for your personal referrals – they are the lifeblood of our business and the greatest compliment you can give us.



Toni and Don Bowen,
Brokers/Owners, Arrow Real Estate

Holly Driskill, Office Manager/Sales Associate



Jay and Karen Willett
Brokers, Arrow Real Estate
also Property Managers and Owners of Apex Management



APEX MANAGEMENT offers full service property management in the Madison Valley. Whether you are interested in using your home as a vacation or a long-term rental, or looking for assistance in finding a rental, contact Jay or Karen at **(406) 682-7112, 581-0103 or 581-4083**. See the Apex website at: www.apexmontana.com. Apex Management is **not** a part of Arrow Real Estate.

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➤ **USEFUL WEBSITES TO REMEMBER**→

ENNIS AND THE MADISON VALLEY:

<http://www.ennismontana.org/> - for community and local government information

<http://www.ennischamber.com/> - The Ennis Chamber of Commerce website

<http://www.madisonvalleyhistoryassociation.org> – The Madison Valley History Association website

<http://www.mvmedcenter.org> – for information about the Madison Valley Medical Center

<http://www.mvmcf.org> – the Madison Valley Medical Center Foundation website

<http://www.mvvetsmemorial.org> – The Madison Valley Veterans Memorial website

<http://ennis.communityblogs.us/2008/11/17/ennis-community-blog/> - comments and events in Ennis

<http://adayinthelifeofalemon.blogspot.com/> - famous local sculptor, David Lemon's site

<http://my-montana-moments.blogspot.com/> - Artist Penny Hall's photo journal of her MT experience

<http://ennismontanahomesandland.blogspot.com> – Ennis, Montana Happenings, from **Arrow Real Estate**

MADISON COUNTY:

<http://madison.homestead.com/index.html> - for Madison County emergency news

<http://www.madison.mt.gov/> - Madison County Government website

<http://virginiacity.com> – Virginia City Chamber of Commerce

NEWS:

<http://www.madisoniannews.com/> - the latest news from the Madisonian newspaper for Madison Co.

<http://bozemandailychronicle.com/> - news from the big city of Bozeman, an hour northeast of Ennis

<http://www.mtstandard.com/> - news from historic Butte, an hour & ½ northwest of Ennis

MONTANA:

www.fwp.mt.gov/ - Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks website – for hunting and fishing regulations

<http://fwp.mt.gov/education/bow/> - “Becoming an Outdoors Woman” – a must for female newcomers!

<http://www.visitmt.com/> - Official website Montana Vacations, Recreation, Accommodations and Travel

<http://www.montanapictures.net> – for people homesick for Montana – a great visual connection

http://mdt.mt.gov/travinfo/weather/rwis_list.shtml - State Highway Web Cams

SKIING:

www.moonlightbasin.com – Check out latest snow conditions on the hill at Big Sky

<http://www.lmranch.com/winter/> - Lone Mountain Ranch in Big Sky for cross country trails

http://www.westyellowstonenet.com/skiing/cross_country_skiing.php - Skiing Yellowstone Park Trails

<http://www.madisonvalleyskiclub.org/> - local ski club with access to Big Sky

HORSEBACK RIDING:

www.wolfpackoutfitters.com – trail riding guides for the Madison Valley

<http://www.sphinxmountainoutfitting.com> – trail riding and outfitting guides in the Madison Valley

RANCHING:

<http://www.madisonvalleyranchlands.org/> - working to keep the ranching way of life alive

FISHING:

<http://www.madisonriverfoundation.org> - The Madison River Foundation

<http://www.montanatu.org/> - Montana Trout Unlimited

GOLFING:

<http://www.madisonmeadowsgolfcourse.com> – Madison Meadows Golf Course in Ennis

REAL ESTATE:

www.arrowreal.com – A wealth of resource information, local listings and a portal to the SW MT MLS

www.houselogic.com – Helpful information from the National Association of Realtors

www.trulia.com – Search for homes for sale and sold, local information, and research

www.zillow.com – Search for homes for sale and rent, home values and mortgage rates

www.homesandland.com – Search for homes for sale and rent, home values and mortgage rates

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