

THE STRAIGHT SHOOTER

NEWS of ENNIS and the MADISON VALLEY, MONTANA for NOVEMBER 2019



Trout live in nice neighborhoods



➤ **MADISON VALLEY NOVEMBER “HAPPENINGS”** → There was a **Halloween Party** at the Gravel Bar. → The Elling House Arts & Humanities Center in VC presented **Margaret “Unsinkable Molly” Brown** and an **Ornament Making Workshop**. → Veterans and supporters gathered to celebrate the 244th **U.S. Marine Corps Birthday**. → An original Play, **“Howl! A Montana Love Story,”** written by local celebrity, Allyson Adams, of Virginia City, was performed by the Big Sky Community Theatre. → The **Virginia City Preservation Alliance** celebrated their 25th anniversary. → The **VC Elks Lodge** held their Fall Feed. → The Madison Valley Baptist Church served free breakfast to Veterans for **Veterans Day** and a full **Thanksgiving Dinner** to all comers. → Artists on Main held a **Stain Glass Mosaic Class**. → **Holiday Bazaars** were held in Pony and in Ennis. → The **Jack Creek Road** debate continues after public meetings, with no decision as to whether the private Moonlight section of the road will ever be open to the public or whether the 3 miles of county road can be improved and maintained to support additional traffic. This has been THE big question for decades.



➤ **MADISON VALLEY DECEMBER “HAPPENINGS”** → The annual **Christmas Stroll** will take place in downtown Ennis on Friday, the 6th at 3PM, with wagon rides, Santa, entertainment, refreshments, sales and fun! → The Elling House in VC will again host their extravagant **“Splendid Feast”** on Friday & Saturday, the 13th and 14th at 5:30 PM. Call for reservations (406) 843-5454. → Take kids (of all ages!) to see Santa during the **Christmas Potluck at the Bear Creek Schoolhouse** in Cameron on the 19th at 6 PM. → The **Elks Lodge** in VC hosts a **Happy Hour** every Friday evening at 5 PM. BYO appetizers and help keep the Lodge open! → You can still find live music at **Willie’s Distillery, Blue Moon Saloon, Pony Bar, Norris Hot Springs (Water of the Gods),** and the **Gravel Bar,** great shopping and dining, plus first-rate movies at the Madison Theatre and fun at the Bowling Alley!



➤ **MONTANA NEWS** → **Big Sky Resort,** our neighbor to the east, is among the crown jewels of Big Sky outdoor attractions. Skiers and boarders the world over have delighted in the immense and varied terrain offerings, dubbed the “Biggest Skiing in America.” How did it earn the title? Big Sky Resort by the numbers: 5,850 skiable acres, 4,350 vertical feet and 36 individual lifts, do the trick. Find everything at: <https://bigskyresort.com/>. The BS Resort received over 50” of snow in October. With direct flights to 16 cities in the winter, Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport is the most well-served ski destination across the US, with 13 daily non-stop flights to Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas/Ft. Worth, Denver, Detroit, Houston, LA, Minn., NY Portland,



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Seattle, SLC & SF. In the summer, that list increases to 18 destinations. → **Yellowstone National Park** has five entrance stations - the North Entrance, Northeast Entrance, East Entrance, South Entrance and the West Entrance. It takes many hours to drive between these entrances, so be sure to check the status of roads at the entrance you intend to use. Most park roads are closed to regular vehicles from early November to late-April, when the park switches to [over-snow travel](#) (snowmobiles and snow coaches). The only road open year-round is from the North Entrance at Gardiner, Montana, through the park to Cooke City, Montana (via Tower Junction). Be sure and check their website for dates and details:



<https://www.nps.gov/yell/index.htm>. → MT Governor Bullock has created a **Grizzly Bear Advisory Council**, made up for 18 citizens from across Montana. Meetings are open to the public and the next will be Dec. 4-5 at the University of Montana. The council has reviewed the history of grizzly bear recovery and conservation in Montana, interagency management efforts, legal considerations, and grizzly bear distribution. At the next meeting, the council will review grizzly bear conflict prevention and interagency responses, tribal management, the Endangered Species Act, and education and outreach efforts.

➤ **HUNTING REPORT** → **Hunting Totals Just Ahead of Last Year.** Deer and elk harvest and hunter participation started off slightly ahead of last season in west-central Montana and have stayed that way through the first three weeks of hunting season, according to data from Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) hunter check stations. But Cameron counts were above average, so far. The general hunting season closed on Sunday, Dec. 1.



➤ **FISHING REPORT** → **The Madison River Fishing Report for December from The Tackle Shop.** It's the most magical time of the year. We are stuffed to the gills with leftover turkey and pumpkin pie. Bright lights, cheer and the fat man in a red suit will soon be here. The thing that gets me most about December is that the shortest day of the year is in December. Now December days in Montana are mostly dark. For a solar-powered person like me I am running on backup lithium batteries just to get to January. After the 22nd at least we are gaining daylight each day and that makes me happy. I am an optimist and the one extra minute a day is appreciated.

Winter has arrived for real this time and with it all the snow and cold *winter-lovers* could ask for. Most people will be heading to Big Sky for the endless snow and winter fun. If you think going skiing might hurt you for fishing season, you are like me. There are still lots of options. When it is this cold, just wait for a warmer day in the 40's. In the winter, **what** you fish is not as important as **where**. Think warmer water. We like the Bear trap Canyon during the winter. A few degrees of water temps make a huge difference. Think **pink**, which is the "fishiest" of winter colors. **Pink** worms, eggs, midges and scuds will all produce. Get them down low as the fish will not move much to take a fly.

If the weather is bad, at least you can watch the 100 different college bowl games this month. We have been asked to sponsor a **Tackle Shop Bowl** next year! It would feature the 8th best team from Conference USA and the 6th best team from the MidAmerican Conference. It would be held at the Ennis High School Field and be televised on channel 12287. I am sure it would be well attended and a great game with highly competitive teams. We are looking for other sponsorship for this game, if you're interested!

Some great holiday deals still to be had for the fisherman on your list. Give us a call and we can ship it out in time for the holidays. Have a great holiday season and remember the real **reason for the season**.

Also remember the coffee and advice are always hot, free and friendly. Happy Holidays, good Fishing and God Bless, *FishEnnis*, from John Way, Owner of **The Tackle Shop**, <http://www.thetackleshop.com>) Ennis, Montana, the **CULTURAL EPICENTER OF TROUT**. (406) 682-4263, or cell: (406) 370-5206.

Check out other fishing reports at:

- ✚ Madison River Fishing Company at:
<http://www.mrfc.com/MadisonRiverMontanaFishing/MadisonRiverReport.aspx>.
- ✚ Dan Delekta at <http://beartoothflyfishing.com/flyfishingreports/uppermadisonriver.htm>.
- ✚ The Madison Valley Ranch at <http://www.madisonvalleyranch.com/blog/>
- ✚ Joe Dilschneider's Montana Trout Stalkers at <http://www.montanatrout.com/>
- ✚ Yellowstone Fly Fishing at <http://www.yellowstoneflyfishing.com/madisonreport.htm>.

➤ **WEATHER** → November brought some more Fall weather, then real Winter showed up! November weather was very much like October, as our daytime high was **64°** and daytime low was **13°**; our nighttime high was **38°**, and our nighttime low was **-3°**. **We had a “white” Thanksgiving!**

➤ **REAL ESTATE TIPS → HOW TO BUILD A WILDLIFE-FRIENDLY FENCE.** A fence that is **friendly to wildlife** should allow **animals** to jump over and crawl under easily without injury; and be highly visible for both ungulates and birds. **What kinds of fence cause problems for wildlife? Fences that:**



- are too high to jump - a maximum of 40” above the ground
- are too low to crawl under - a minimum of 16” of space
- have loose or broken wires;
- have wires spaced too closely together;
- can impale or snag a leaping animal;
- are difficult for running animals or birds to see;
- create a complete barrier;
- create a 3-dimensional obstacle.

You can combine or tailor many of the ideas presented in these **guides** to your specific situation. <http://fwp.mt.gov/mtoutdoors/HTML/articles/2009/fencing.htm>; <http://montanans4wildlife.com/wildlife-friendly-fencing/>.

➤ **FIND A HOME FOR YOUR SOUL... Featured Property of the Month ... 2.5 acres overlooking Hebgen Lake!** The property consists of 3 adjoining lots in a small subdivision, with great views of the lake and mountains, just 17 miles from Yellowstone National Park and minutes to the Madison River. A perfect place for your dream vacation home – or several! Hebgen Lake Subdivision #1, Lots 1, 2 & 3. **\$585,000.** MLS #340987. GoogleEarth Coordinates: 44.819881°, -111.258364°.



➤ **CURRENT REAL ESTATE NEWS → WASHINGTON** (November 27, 2019) – Pending home sales retreated in October, taking a slight step back after two prior months of increases, according to the National Association of Realtors®. The Northeast experienced a minor uptick last month, but the other three major U.S. regions reported declines in month-over-month contract activity. However, pending home sales were up nationally and up in all regions compared to a year ago.

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The Pending Home Sales Index (PHSI), a forward-looking indicator based on contract signings, fell 1.7% to 106.7 in October. Year-over-year contract signings jumped 4.4%. An index of 100 is equal to the level of contract activity in 2001. Lawrence Yun, NAR's chief economist, noted the decline in inventory and a small rise in mortgage rates in October from September to, in part, explain this month's signings drop. *"While contract signings have decreased, the overall economic landscape remains favorable,"* Yun said. *"Mortgage rates continue to be low at below 4% – which will attract buyers – employment levels are strong, and many recession claims have dissipated."*

Pointing to data from active listings at realtor.com®, Yun says the markets where listing prices are around \$250,000 – an affordable price point in most markets nationally – are drawing some of the most significant buyer attention, including Fort Wayne, Ind., Pueblo, Colo., Columbus, Ohio, Rochester, N.Y., and Lafayette, Ind. *"We still need to address and, more importantly, correct inadequate levels of inventory across the country,"* Yun said. *"There is no shortage of buyers seeking homes, but a lack of available units continues to drag down the nation's housing market and overall economy."* *"We risk a lingering shortage of sufficient inventory if homebuilding only continues at its current pace over the next 20 years, when the U.S. population is projected to increase by more than 40 million over this period. Clearly, home builders must step in and construct more housing."*

With the exception of the Northeast, all regional indices saw declines in October. The PHSI in the Northeast rose 1.9% to 95.7 in October, 3.0% higher than a year ago. In the Midwest, the index slid 2.7% to 101.4 last month, 1.8% higher than in October 2018. Pending home sales in the South decreased 1.7% to an index of 125.3 in October, a 5.1% increase from last October. The index in the West declined 3.4% in October 2019 to 91.9, which is an increase of 7.5% from a year ago.

The National Association of Realtors®, "The Voice for Real Estate," is America's largest trade association, representing 1.3 million members involved in all aspects of the residential and commercial real estate industries.

➤ **LOCAL REAL ESTATE MARKET STATISTICS** → In the "old days," ours was a seasonal market and winter was so slow, we would leave for months and go south! No more! Out-of-state Buyers are still hunting online for that perfect property and lining up what they want to see during their visit to Montana. And local Buyers are always ready to take advantage of motivated sellers during the slower winter months. So, our real estate market is more year-around than it used to be. **Big Sky Country** Multiple Listing statistics for the Madison Valley area (including Ennis, Cameron, McAllister, Norris, Virginia City, Harrison, Pony, Whitehall, and Cardwell), for the month of **NOVEMBER 2019** are as follows:

- **HOMES:** 63↓ homes listed (\$85,000 to \$2,990,000); 8↓ pending sales (\$250,000 to \$835,000); and 81 homes have sold in 2019 (\$70,000 to \$4,500,000), totaling \$36,455,000 at 95.7%↑ of list prices.
- **LAND:** 194↓ vacant lots listed (\$9,500 to \$2,200,000; with 21↑ pending sales (\$35,000 to \$560,000); and 142 lots have sold in 2019 (\$9,000 to \$2,900,000), totaling \$14,560,299 at 95.2% of list prices.
- **RANCHES:** 8 ranches listed (\$599,000 to \$15,900,000); 0 pending sales, and 0 ranches have sold in 2019.
- **COMMERCIAL:** 15↑ listed (\$99,000 to \$950,000); 0↓ pending sales; and 9 commercial properties have sold in 2019 (\$54,000 to \$950,000), totaling \$2,843,000, at 92.9% ↑ of list prices.

"The best investment on Earth is earth." Louis J. Glickman, real estate mogul/philanthropist

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➤ **MONTANA TRIVIA...** *Did you know... that the cattle industry in Montana started right here in Madison County?* According to Dr. John Seidensticker, in Pioneer Trails and Trials, a man named John Grant had a trading post where the Ruby River empties into the Beaverhead River. He traded with the Indians, many of whom lived in the Ruby Valley, more or less peacefully during the winter. The Flathead tribes, the Bannocks, and the Shoshones, who were normally at odds, tolerated each other in the valley. There were several other traders who lived in this area with trading posts or wigwams during the winter, and they were joined by Granville Stuart and his brother, James, when they came to Montana. Jim Dempsey was among the other traders there. The Stuart boys were unable to purchase some cattle from Grant and when forced to leave the area by the hostile and obnoxious attitude of the Bannack Indians under their six foot five inch chief, named "The Rouge" by the whites, took the cattle with them to their new home on the Clark Fork, below Deer Lodge. It was from this location that Stuart was given credit for the first development of gold in Montana at Gold Creek. In the spring his cows brought in 34 head of Durham calves. Stuart has been given credit for being the father of the cattle industry in Montana. Check out more history at: www.madisonvalleyhistoryassociation.org.



SEE YOU IN MONTANA! Be not afraid.



Our ERA Landmark Arrow Real Estate Team

Toni and Don Bowen, Broker Associates and Accredited Buyer Broker Representatives, with over 75 years of real estate experience, between them – covering residential, commercial, vacant land, recreational & ranch properties in the Madison Valley.

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

WE'RE NOT JUST HERE TO MAKE A LIVING ---WE'RE HERE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



*Debbie Reilly-Richardson
Office Administrator*



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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.mvvetsmemorial.org> – The Madison Valley Veterans Memorial website

<http://ennisarts.org/> - The Ennis Arts Association website for all artists!

<http://www.backroadtoyellowstone.com> – information for travelers about the route through our valley

MADISON COUNTY:

<https://madisoncountymt.gov/525/Emergency-Information> - 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

<http://montanakids.com/> - State website for all things KIDS in Montana

<https://www.nps.gov/yell/index.htm> - Yellowstone National Park – for all things Yellowstone Park

<https://www.facebook.com/Ennisrealestate?ref=hl> – Facebook page for ERA Landmark Arrow R. E.

SKIING:

<http://bigskyresort.com/> – Check out latest snow conditions & things to do 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

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 Big Sky MLS

www.eralandmark.com – Our Main Office website, covering Bozeman, Livingston, Big Sky & Ennis

<http://www.realtor.com/> - The world’s #1 Real Estate website. The source for all properties on MLS

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

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

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