

# THE STRAIGHT SHOOTER

## NEWS of ENNIS and the MADISON VALLEY, MONTANA for OCTOBER 2019



*Trout live in nice neighborhoods*



➤ **MADISON VALLEY OCTOBER “HAPPENINGS”** → Hundreds of people filled Main Street Ennis for the 34<sup>th</sup> **Annual Hunter’s Feed**. The weather was perfect, the wild game dishes exotic and delicious and the entertainment fun. Everyone shows up for free food! The winning game dishes were Korean Elk Street Tacos, Four-legged Chili, Venison Picadillo Tacos and Elk & Antelope Tamales. Yum! *I retired from making my famous Tequila Elk Chili 4 years ago, so now I can roam the street and sample the interesting dishes.* → Families enjoyed a **Cider Pressing Party** at Jackson’s Garden in Sheridan and there was a **Pumpkin Patch** every Saturday in Alder at High Country Irrigation & Landscaping. → You could **Mingle with Vampires in the Haunted House** at the Elling House in Virginia City. → There was a **Handweaving Workshop**, a class to **Study Animal Tracks** and a **Natural Hide Tanning** class. → The **Ruby Valley Brew** in Sheridan hosted Trivia Night. → Still lots going on!



➤ **MADISON VALLEY NOVEMBER “HAPPENINGS”** → There will be a **Halloween Party** at the Gravel Bar on Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> with band and costume contest. → The Elling House Arts & Humanities Center in VC will be presenting **Margaret “Unsinkable Molly” Brown** on the 6<sup>th</sup>, plus an **Ornament Making Workshop** on the 9<sup>th</sup>. → Veterans and supporters will be celebrating the 244<sup>th</sup> **U.S. Marine Corps Birthday**, on Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> at the Ennis Senior Center. It is always a fun but serious recognition of the USMC and all active duty military and veterans. → An original Play, **“How! A Montana Love Story,”** written by local celebrity, Allyson Adams, of Virginia City, will be performed by the Big Sky Community Theatre on November 15 & 16<sup>th</sup>. [Tix@warrenmillerpac.org](mailto:Tix@warrenmillerpac.org). → 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** → The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis released a report in September indicating that **Montana ranks No. 2** in the nation for its **outdoor recreation economy**, coming in secondly only to Hawaii! → World-changing ideas are born at **HATCH, a Montana Think Tank**. Innovators from around the world gathered recently, by invitation only, at Emigrant’s Mountain High Guest Ranch to find solutions to some of society’s most pressing issues, through a mixed bag of values, perspectives and talents. <http://www.explorebigsky.com/hatch-world-changing-ideas-born-in-montana-think-tank/31434>. → The **Great American Rail-Trail**, a bike path that will connect Washington State to Washington D.C., is over 50% complete, with the Montana and Wyoming sections taking longer. In Montana, the Trail appears to follow I-90 through Missoula to Livingston, then south through the Paradise Valley into Yellowstone Park. It is estimated that it could take two decades for the complete path to become a reality. More information at: <https://www.trailink.com/great-american-rail-trail/>; and <https://www.curbed.com/2019/2/6/18213958/bike-trails-great-american-rail-trail>.



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➤ **HUNTING REPORT** → **General rifle season has begun, and Women hunt too!** *Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) program* is designed to introduce women to outdoor skills. The BOW program provides participants with information, encouragement and hands-on instruction in outdoor skills such as fishing, shooting, archery, map & compass, survival, canoeing and outdoor cooking. *A BOW workshop is for you if...*

- You have never tried these activities, but have hoped for an opportunity to learn.
- You are a beginner who hopes to improve your skills.
- You know how to do some of these activities, but would like to try your hand at some new ones.
- You enjoy the camaraderie of like-minded individuals and you seek time away to reconnect with nature. BOW offers partial scholarships for women aged 18 years and older who are full-time residents of Montana and who have not previously attended a BOW event. These scholarships enable women to participate in BOW who otherwise may not be able to afford the full registration fee. Recipients may receive only one scholarship in a lifetime. Contact the [BOW Coordinator](#) if you are seeking a partial scholarship. For more information, go to: <http://fwp.mt.gov/education/bow/>

➤ **FISHING REPORT** → **The Madison River Fishing Report for November from The Tackle Shop.** November is here and the ghosts and goblins are gone from roaming the streets looking for candy. All that we have left in front of us is feasting on turkey, hunting season, college football stupor and more winter. As for winter, we had the first month of winter already, here in Ennis. January temps put a damper on the golden fall fishing we all love, trick-or-treating in the blizzard and the opening of hunting season looked like New Year's Day. Is it climate change, global warming, a new ice age or a combination of the above? The answer to that question is about like asking, *what are the fish thinking?* It is well above my pay grade and even if I answered, someone would call bull turd on me. Whatever the answer, I don't like it and was wishing for a good, long, warm fall. This makes me look forward to trips to Belize even sooner. That reminds me, I need to check plane tickets for tomorrow.

If you're a hardy soul and want to catch that November fish, there are a few options. The Lyons Club pond is already frozen, so that is out. As long as it stays cold in this nuclear winter, the fishing will be challenging. Pray for warmer days above 40 to try and test your luck. Under these conditions, where you fish is just as important as what you fish. Look for slow, deep water. The fish will be near the bottom. Remember, frozen fish sticks sink. Get down with typical winter fare of stone fly stuff, worms, eggs, shiny midge stuff and even a dead drift streamer. If you're not getting hits, come back another day when it's warmer, like June, or just add more weight.



If you're not fishing this month, go shopping. You have limited time before Christmas and might as well get that shopping out of the way prior to bowl game season. Speaking of shopping, try a local fly shop with a large fly on the roof, in the center of Ennis. Great deals to be had as the October business flew south with the early migrating birds. Great items for every fisherman on the list and you can help keep the lights on until spring, whenever that happens. Hopefully, before the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. Remember the coffee and advice are always hot, free and friendly. Good Fishing and God Bless, *FishEnnis*, from John Way, Owner of **The Tackle Shop**, Chairman of the Montana Outfitting Board, and **the 2017 Orvis Outfitter of the Year!** (Check it out at <http://www.thetackleshop.com>) Ennis, Montana, the **CULTURAL EPICENTER OF TROUT**. (406) 682-4263 or cell: (406) 370-5206.

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## 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** → Indian Summer was just a dream and winter is definitely here. October is generally a wonderful weather month, but we were fooled this year with record low temps. The daytime high was **69°** and daytime low was **13°**; our nighttime high was **45°**, and our nighttime low was **-5°**; and a **blizzard with white-out conditions in Ennis and Norris Hill closed down!**



➤ **REAL ESTATE TIPS** → **TOP HOME IMPROVEMENTS FOR 2019.** According to the latest Remodeling Impact Report by the National Association of Realtors®, the two projects that rank as most popular home improvement projects are **new roofs and kitchens**. The report showed that the estimated cost of renovations has increased but so has the cost recovered increased. The report also highlighted the 3 top Joy Score projects and the 3 top Return-on-Investment projects:

### Top "Joy Score" Projects:

1. Kitchen Renovation
2. Closet Renovation
3. Full Interior Paint Job

### Top "Return-on-Investment" Projects:

1. New Flooring
2. New Hardwood Floors
3. Refinished Hardwood Floors



➤ **FIND A HOME FOR YOUR SOUL... Featured Property of the Month ... 20 ACRES BORDERING NATIONAL FOREST!** Near Mile Creek Trailhead in the Henry Mountains at Reynolds Pass, 50 miles south of Ennis and 30 miles north of Yellowstone Nat. Park. Close to Cliff & Wade Lakes, the Madison River and Quake Lake plus the Gravelly and Madison Ranges. Abundant wildlife and lots of opportunity for hunting and hiking. A great place to build your off-the-grid cabin and enjoy total privacy. Sportsman's Paradise – Wagon Track, Tract 13. **\$185,000.** MLS # 300855. GoogleEarth Coordinates: 44.773034°, -111.437347°.



➤ **CURRENT REAL ESTATE NEWS** → **WASHINGTON** (October 29, 2019) – Pending home sales grew in September, marking two consecutive months of increases, according to the National Association of Realtors. The four major regions were split last month, as the Midwest and South recorded gains but the Northeast and West reported declines in month-over-month contract activity. The Pending Home Sales Index (PHSI), a forward-looking indicator based on contract signings, rose 1.5% to 108.7 in September. Year-over-year contract signings jumped 3.9%. An index of 100 is equal to the level of contract activity in 2001.

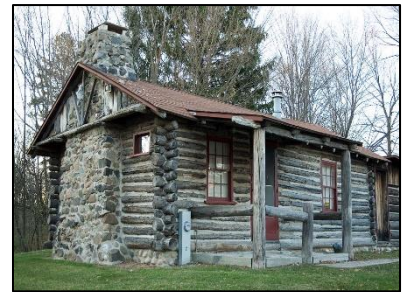
Historically low mortgage rates played a significant role in the two straight months of gains, according to Lawrence Yun, NAR's chief economist. *"Even though home prices are rising faster than income, national buying power has increased by 6% because of better interest rates,"* he said. *"Furthermore, we've seen increased foot traffic as more buyers are evidently eager searching to become homeowners."* Pointing to data from active listings at realtor.com®, Yun says the upper end of the market is faring well.

Although contract signings are on the upswing, Yun says the numbers would be even greater if more housing were available. *"Going forward, interest rates will surely not decline in a sizable way, so the changes in the median price will be the key to housing affordability,"* he said. *"But home prices are rising too fast because of insufficient inventory,"* he said. *"In addition to boosting traditional home building, we should explore a greater utilization of modular factory constructed homes, converting old shopping malls or vacant office space into condominiums, permitting more accessory dwelling units, and other supply-increasing actions, in order to meet the rising demand for new housing,"* Yun said.

September Pending Home Sales Regional Breakdown : Regional indices in September were mixed, with the Northeast experiencing the smallest change of the four regions. The PHSI in the Northeast fell 0.4% to 93.9 in September but is still 1.3% higher than a year ago. In the Midwest, the index increased 3.1% to 104.4 in September, 2.7% higher than September 2018. Pending home sales in the South increased 2.6% to an index of 127.5 in September, a 5.7% jump from last September. The index in the West declined 1.3% in September 2019 to 95.1, which is an increase of 3.4% 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** → Hunters are showing up now and looking for those perfect hunting properties. Even with the iffy weather, we can still show remote properties. Residential & land listings are down, as would be expected. **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 **OCTOBER 2019** are as follows:



- **HOMES:** 67↓ homes listed (\$85,000 to \$2,990,000); 13↓ pending sales (\$249,500 to \$1,295,000); and 73 homes have sold in 2019 (\$70,000 to \$4,500,000), totaling \$32,564,100 at 95.4%↑ of list prices.
- **LAND:** 218↓ vacant lots listed (\$9,500 to \$2,200,000; with 16↓ pending sales (\$50,000 to \$366,000); and 131 lots have sold in 2019 (\$9,000 to \$2,900,000), totaling \$13,294,850 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:** 14↓ listed (\$99,000 to \$950,000); 2↓ pending sales (\$165,000 – \$305,000); and 8 commercial properties have sold in 2019 (\$54,000 to \$950,000), totaling \$2,538,000, at 91% 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 FLY FISHING has become the new Yoga for Millennials? "Step aside, goat yoga. The chic way to unwind now is fly fishing! That's right. For those who can afford the leisure time and some rudimentary equipment, it offers a reason to be outdoors, a closer connection to nature, an avenue for environmentalism, built-in community, opportunity for creative expression, and a lifetime's worth of niche expertise. Fly anglers who are not vegetarian nor vegan, nor otherwise bound by the code of "catch and release," see it as an extension of the farm-to-table movement. Plus, it's very Instagrammable, even as it encourages people to put down their phones."*

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/14/style/fly-fishing-returns.html>

We are seeing this phenomenon here on the Madison. Our local fly shops offer free casting lessons for those who are new to the sport. You will soon be hooked!



**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/](http://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](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](http://www.westyellowstonenet.com/skiing/cross_country_skiing.php) - Skiing Yellowstone Park Trails

### HORSEBACK RIDING:

[www.wolfpackoutfitters.com](http://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](http://www.arrowreal.com) – A wealth of resource information, local listings and a portal to the Big Sky MLS

[www.eralandmark.com](http://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](http://www.houselogic.com) – Helpful information from the National Association of Realtors

[www.homesandland.com](http://www.homesandland.com) – Search for homes for sale and rent, home values and mortgage rates

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