

THE STRAIGHT SHOOTER

NEWS of ENNIS and the MADISON VALLEY, MONTANA for NOVEMBER 2020



Trout live in nice neighborhoods



➤ **MADISON VALLEY NOVEMBER “NON-HAPPENINGS”** → Pretty sad when there are more cancellations than happenings, but that is the sad situation, once again. → The bad news first. The annual USMC Birthday celebration in Ennis, did not happen. → The annual Holiday Bazaar usually held the Saturday after Thanksgiving, did not happen. → Big excitement! A semi rolled over on Main Street near the Nearly New Shoppe & Willie’s Distillery, sites of two previous rollovers. <http://www.madisoniannews.com/news/semi-rolls-ennis-main-street> → High winds & snowy conditions damaged transmission lines causing a **15-hour power outage** to the entire Madison Valley on Nov. 8th. It was a cold, dark Sunday! → **Now for the Good News!** The MuleX Cyclocross was a fun outdoors event. → Local rancher, Gary Clark, was inducted into the **Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame**. → A Holiday Mercantile was held at a private barn out near the Airport. → Small Business Saturday was a special **Holiday Hoorah**, with all the downtown business participating with discounts and drawings. → The Fish & Wildlife Commission unanimously voted to adopt the **Madison River Recreation Rules**, as recommended by the MT FW&P, which included a cap on outfitter numbers as well as the rest/rotation and walk/wade schedules. Check out details at: <http://fwp.mt.gov/doingBusiness/insideFwp/commission/meetings/agenda.html?coversheet&topicId=63709047>.



➤ **MADISON VALLEY DECEMBER “HAPPENINGS”** → The only scheduled event, so far, in December is the **Spirit of Christmas Stroll** on the 5th, with a town Christmas Tree lighting. → The former Antler Design building is beautifully decorated with Christmas lights. → And the Ennis Chamber of Commerce has scheduled the **Tap into Ennis Brewfest** in June, the **July 4th Rodeo & Parade**, the **Labor Day Fly Fishing & Outdoor Festival** and the **Hunters Feed**, the Friday before Rifle Season. So mark your calendars for 2021! A brand new year!



➤ **MONTANA NEWS** → **Montana State Parks** hosted 3 million visitors from January through September of 2020. Compared with the same time-period last year, visitation increased by 24.4%, representing the busiest summer on record. → The region’s long and unseasonably warm fall, coupled with many travelers’ need for escape, has driven many to the solitude and grandeur of **Yellowstone National Park**. The park recorded 360,034 visitors in October – 110 % visitation compared to October 2019. The Park roads, with the exception of Gardiner to Cooke City,

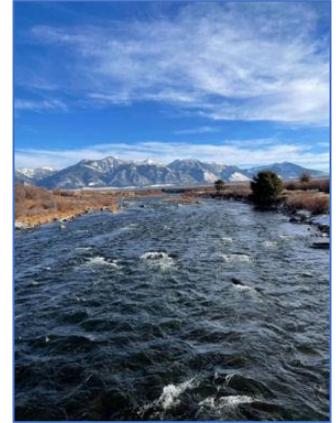


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are closed to vehicle traffic for the winter and the park expects to be ready to open for snow coach and snowmobile traffic on Dec. 15, conditions permitting. <https://www.yellowstonevacations.com/guided-tours/snowcoach-tours-wy>.

➤ **FISHING REPORT → The Madison River Fishing Report. By John Way.**

*December is here. It's almost the new year!
Thank God for that, 2020 was bad. At times, it made me mad.
Pandemics, lockdowns, elections.
Going forward, let's look for some corrections.
Look on the bright side for all we have, the Madison River, Montana and more. And life, if you want to keep score.
We are well ahead and on the way to victory.
We just need to get through a little more misery.
One more calendar flip and it will start new.
A new year of promise for me and you.
With hope and promise, I will buy you a beer. Soon, it will be the new year!*



A little literary vomit to keep you entertained. Bet you thought fishing guides couldn't do anything but row a boat! My un-lyrical lyrics come out most days on the water. Well, here we are in December and close to a new year. The elections are over, I think? The vaccine is about to be released, according to the news. This "dumpster fire" of a year is about to get a slurry bomber. Things are getting better and by spring it will be **go time!** You can quote me on that.

Let me get back to what I do best, and that is fishing. If you need to find a fish to round out your year, it is still possible. Especially with the more temperate weather we have been having. Nymphing will get you bent sooner and more often than any other technique. Stone flies, worms, eggs and midge larva will take fish. Look for the winter holes. Slow and deep. The fish are not in the bouncy stuff of summer. If you can see the bottom on a sunny day, it is not deep enough. If you're not getting fish, add weight. This time of year, it is more about picking your day and spot than anything else. Look for days above 45 with little to no wind. Only fish the winter deep water. Once you find them, stick with it, as there are lots of fish in the holes. Just get out and fish! I am sure you can keep social distance this time of year on the river. You might even have the entire river to yourself!

Wherever you are this holiday shopping season, think **local small businesses** for your gifts. These guys had a tough year and could use some help. Buy local and be merry. Free coffee and advice daily at The Tackle Shop. Happy 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>.

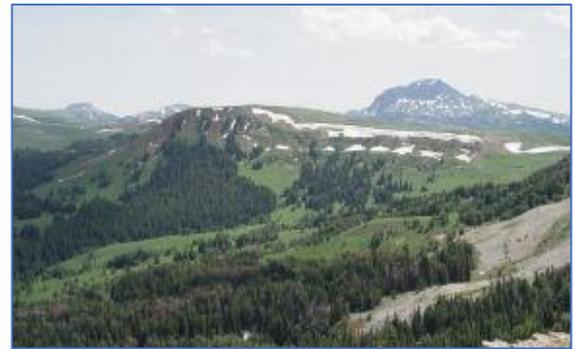
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➤ **WEATHER** → Except for the early November snowstorm, it was a mild fall. The November daytime high was 71°, with a daytime low was 21°. The November nighttime high was 43° and nighttime low was 8°. So, November was warmer than October! And most of the snow is gone from the mountain tops. We are probably due for another storm, but the forecast shows mild temps and sunshine for the next week. Who says Montana is too cold?!



➤ **REAL ESTATE TIPS → 10 REASONS WHY IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO MOVE TO MONTANA!** Thinking of moving to Montana? Whether you're seeking adventure or solitude, you'll find it (and more!) in Big Sky Country. From the jagged Rocky Mountains to the expansive Great Plains, the state's 147,000 square miles of sprawling terrain is home to some of the most beautiful wildlife in the country. It's also home to a number of unique cities and towns filled with friendly residents, affordable neighborhoods and plenty of jobs. Here are 10 reasons why moving to Montana is a great idea. Read the full story at: <https://www.moving.com/tips/10-reasons-to-move-to-montana/>.

10 Reasons Why Moving to Montana Is a Great Idea



1. **Montana's natural beauty is unmatched.** There's a reason people travel from all over the world to visit Montana: it's stunningly beautiful. In fact, the Western state is consistently ranked as one of the most beautiful places to live by numerous lists.

2. **Property taxes are exceptionally low.** Hoping to buy a home? You'll be happy to know that property taxes in Montana are lower than the national average, making it an ideal state for homeowners.

3. **There are plenty of wide-open spaces.** Need some space? You'll find it in Montana. While the state is one of the largest in terms of size, it also happens to be one of the least densely populated. Montana is the 44th most populous state, with an average of 6.86 people per square mile.

4. **Montana is full of interesting and vibrant cities to call home.** From small, rural towns to large, vibrant cities, the State of Montana is chock full of gorgeous places to live. (*We happen to think Ennis in the Madison Valley is the very best place to be!*)

5. **There's so much to do outdoors.** Residents of Montana will tell you that life in this state is one big adventure, thanks to the endless number of outdoor activities.

6. **The state is rich with history.** First inhabited by Native Americans, Montana has an especially rich and interesting history. It was discovered by the Lewis and Clark Expedition in the 1800s and quickly became a haven for fur trappers and traders. In the 1860s, the discovery of gold enticed a large number of people to its mountainous terrain.

7. **Montana is home to several top-ranked colleges and universities.** Looking to study under the Big Sky? You'll find plenty of educational opportunities in Montana.

8. **The food is some of the most unique in the country.** Montana offers some of the best and most unique culinary delights in the country.

9. **There are plenty of jobs.** Want to move somewhere with a robust job market and a healthy economy? Look no further than Montana. According to the state's official [website](#), "Montana has the 8th fastest GDP growth among states over both the last five years and ten years (ending in 2013)."

10. **It's one of the healthiest states in the country.** Looking for a healthy and happy place to live? Montana residents enjoy an exceptionally healthy lifestyle. Fresh air, an abundance of healthy food, and numerous physical activities have all contributed to the Treasure State's healthy habits.

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➤ **FIND A HOME FOR YOUR SOUL. FEATURED PROPERTY OF THE MONTH.**

138.5 Acres with good highway access, water rights, power available and **NO COVENANTS!** This is a special, "hard-to-find" property which is comprised of 118.5 acres of a former ranch, plus a 20-acre parcel which provides convenient access to the Mile Creek Trailhead into the National Forest. This property has shared flood irrigation water rights from Mile Creek which runs through the far eastern end of the property. This is a very desirable and unique property with many potential uses, close to great hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, hiking, trail riding, Yellowstone National Park, and more. **\$299,000.** MLS # 352375. Latitude 44.775795°, Longitude -111.462122°, Elevation 6,639'.



<https://www.itourmedia.com/display/index/2312631>

➤ **CURRENT REAL ESTATE NEWS** → WASHINGTON (November 30, 2020) – Pending home sales fell slightly in October, according to the National Association of Realtors. Contract activity was mixed among the four major U.S. regions, with the only positive month-over-month growth happening in the South, although each region achieved year-over-year gains in pending home sales transactions.

The Pending Home Sales Index (PHSI), a forward-looking indicator of home sales based on contract signings, fell 1.1% to 128.9 in October, the second straight month of decline. Year-over-year, contract signings rose 20.2%. An index of 100 is equal to the level of contract activity in 2001.

"Pending home transactions saw a small drop off from the prior month but still easily outperformed last year's numbers for October," said Lawrence Yun, NAR's chief economist. *"The housing market is still hot, but we may be starting to see rising home prices hurting affordability."*

Both the inventory of homes for sale and mortgage rates are now at historic lows, according to Yun. *"The combination of these factors – scarce housing and low rates – plus very strong demand has pushed home prices to levels that are making it difficult to save for a down payment, particularly among first-time buyers, who don't have the luxury of using housing equity from a sale to use as a down payment,"* said Yun. *"Work-from-home flexibility has also increased the demand for both primary and secondary homes."*

Realtor.com®'s Housing Market Recovery Index, which reveals metro areas where the market has recovered or even exceeded January 20 levels, showed Las Vegas-Henderson-Paradise, Nev.; San Francisco, Calif.; Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, Wash.; San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, Calif.; and Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, Calif., had enjoyed the most significant recovery as of November 14.

The Northeast PHSI slid 5.9% to 112.3 in October, a 18.5% increase from a year ago. In the Midwest, the index fell 0.7% to 119.6 last month, up 19.6% from October 2019.

Pending home sales in the South increased 0.1% to an index of 151.1 in October, up 21.0% from October 2019. The index in the West remained the same in October, at 116.8, which is up 20.8% 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.

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➤ **REAL ESTATE MARKET STATISTICS:** No slowing down yet! The demand is strong and people are still coming. I wonder when we will run out of inventory. **Big Sky Country** Multiple Listing statistics for the Madison Valley area (including Ennis, Cameron, McAllister, Norris, Virginia City, Harrison, Pony), for the month of NOVEMBER, were as follows:

- **HOMES:** 36↑ homes listed (\$125,000 to \$2,500,000); 11↓ pending sales (\$275,000 to \$995,000); and 91 homes have sold in 2020 (\$70,975 to \$3,100,000), totaling \$47,590,975 at 97.5%↑ of list prices.
- **LAND:** 105↓ vacant lots listed (\$34,900 to \$3,995,000; with 40↓ pending sales (\$37,900 to \$350,000); and 180 lots have sold in 2020 (\$3,500 to \$1,800,000), totaling \$20,202,753 at 93.7%↓ of list prices.
- **RANCHES:** 6 ranches listed (\$599,000 to \$7,995,000); 0 pending sales, and 4 ranches have sold in 2020 (\$1,225,000 to \$13,300,000), totaling \$20,425,000, at 89.9%↑ of list price. No change from October.
- **COMMERCIAL:** 8↓ listed (\$139,900 to \$950,000); 3 pending sales (\$259,000 to \$475,000); and 4 commercial properties have sold in 2020 (\$90,000 - \$375,000), totaling \$670,000, at 90.9% of list price. There are several commercial properties available for rent.

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

➤ **MONTANA TRIVIA...***Did you know... that the railroads were responsible for creating the time code system that divided the country into four time zones? The railroads needed a more uniform time-keeping system for scheduling purposes, so they divided the country into four zones: East, Central, Mountain and West.* The bankruptcy of the Northern Pacific Railroad left Montana without the planned link from Minnesota through Montana and on to the Pacific Coast. Small train lines such as the Gallatin Valley Line, the Milwaukee Road and Turkey Red connected communities, carrying grains and passengers.



<https://mdt.mt.gov/travinfo/docs/railmap.pdf>. Today in Montana, Amtrak's Empire Builder, which runs from Chicago along Montana's Hi-Line to Seattle and Portland, is the only passenger rail service.

<https://www.distinctlymontana.com/brief-history-passenger-rail-service-montana>. While it's been more than four decades since passenger rail service ran on Montana's southern route, there has been enthusiasm about reigniting a route that would connect cities including, Miles City, Billings, Livingston, Bozeman, Helena, Missoula and more. The Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority was created to create a transformational project for Montana — establishing safe, reliable and affordable inter-city, long-distance passenger rail service through southern Montana. With interstate

air travel having always been an unsure proposition in Montana, the possibility of uniting some of the major cities via passenger rail could provide a welcome boost to the state's tourist economy.

<http://www.butteamericaradio.org/news/2020/7/1/new-effort-seeks-passenger-rail-service-in-southern-montana>; <https://www.mtpr.org/post/support-southern-passenger-rail-line-montana-gains-steam>.

SEE YOU IN MONTANA!

Social Distancing Champions, since 1889!

Be not afraid. STAY SAFE, SANE AND SOBER!

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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.



And our office puppy, Finley!



After 26 years in this location, our office will be moving across the street, to the Lone Elk Mall, Unit 1D (the 5th door down the boardwalk). We are downsizing and streamlining, in this age of on-line shopping (even real estate!). We plan to be set up in our new location by February 1, 2021. Please stop in and visit us there.

*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!*

The metal fisherman sculpture in the center of Ennis, MT



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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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