

THE STRAIGHT SHOOTER

NEWS of ENNIS and the MADISON VALLEY, MONTANA for JANUARY 2022



Trout live in nice neighborhoods



➤ **MADISON VALLEY JANUARY “HAPPENINGS”** → The Madison River Gorge flooded Lions Club Park on Jan. 4th. It is still flooded. → Two Madison River fishing access sites are closed due to flooding. → But the 10th Annual North American Ice Fishing Circuit Event – The West Yellowstone/Hebgen Lake Tournament took place, with lots of ice! → Winter Rancher Roundtable Events were held on Soil Health, Drought Management, Cover Crops and Livestock Vaccinations. → Kids gathered for the Virginia City Goal Rush – a popular Ice Hockey Tournament and adults competed in the 7th Annual Virginia City Pond Hockey Tournament. → The Madison Valley Public Library held a Seed Swap Day. → Continuing Education classes started and will continue through March. → The big, new building behind Willie’s Distillery is now under roof!



➤ **MADISON VALLEY FEBRUARY “HAPPENINGS”** → More Winter Rancher Roundtables will be held for people wanting to learn more about many aspects of ranching. For more info call (406) 682-3181. → The Madison Valley Library will host a book signing for Tom Harpole, of his book, *Regarding Willingness*, the 2020 winner of the Montana Honor Book Award, on Feb. 11th at 5:30 PM. → Make your reservations for the next gourmet Wine Dinner at the Madison Valley Ranch in Jeffers! Call 800 891-6158. → The new pharmacy at the Madison Valley Medical Center is completed and will be operational in February. → The Sportsman’s Lodge is now under new ownership. We wish them much success! → The new Martelli Salon & Spa has opened at 230 E. Main Street. → We expect there will be more Chautauquas planned for the Elling House Arts & Humanities Center in VC. Call for more info (406) 843-5454. → The Blue Moon Saloon has reopened for the 2022 season. More dining options! → The Big Sky Winter Fest will be held Feb. 3-6. → *And you can still ski, x-country ski, snowmobile, eat, drink, bowl, and go shopping!*



➤ **LOOKING AHEAD.** → More gourmet Wine Dinners are scheduled for the public at the Madison Valley Ranch – March 11th & 12th and April 8th and 9th. → Jack Creek Preserve still has openings in their Winter Outdoor Skills Camp! It is a 3-day, 2-night program, for 14–18-year-olds, March 25-27. It will include classroom and field instruction focusing on winter backcountry safety, snow science and avalanche awareness, plus wildlife and habitat. Registration will open January 2nd and limited to 20. Check the WINTER OUTDOOR SKILLS CAMP webpage for more information and updates.

➤ **MONTANA NEWS** → March 1, 2022, will mark the 150th anniversary of the establishment of Yellowstone National Park! Check it out at: <https://www.nps.gov/yell/getinvolved/150-years-of-yellowstone.htm>. Signed into law by President Ulysses S. Grant, America's first national park was set aside

ERA LANDMARK ARROW REAL ESTATE → 222 E. Main Street, Unit 1-D → POB 546 → Ennis, MT 59729
Associated with ERA LANDMARK Real Estate, with offices in Bozeman, Big Sky, Livingston & Ennis, Montana
(406) 682-4290 → www.arrowreal.com → <http://eralandmark.com/communities/ennis>

to preserve and protect the scenery, cultural heritage, wildlife, geologic and ecological systems and processes in their natural condition for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. Yellowstone serves as the core of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, one of the last and largest nearly intact natural ecosystems on the planet. Yellowstone has the most active, diverse, and intact collections of combined geothermal features with over 10,000 hydrothermal sites and half the world's active geysers. The park is also rich in cultural and historical resources with 25 sites, landmarks, and districts on the National Register of Historic Places. → **Yellowstone National Park 2021 statistics:** Record



number year with 4,860,537 visits, up 28% vs 2020. July was the busiest month, with over 1,000,000 visits, first time in a single month. Completed over \$100 million in projects over the past 2 years. → Twenty-eight **bison were transferred from Yellowstone Park to the Assiniboine & Sioux tribes of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation**, after brucellosis quarantine protocol. The program will continue to expand.

➤ **FISHING REPORT** → *From Big John*. February is here and there are a few interesting things about this. First, there is a Groundhog Day. Let's hope for at least a few more weeks of winter and that the darn rodent does not see his shadow! Or is it the other way? Either way, more snow please! Second, it is a Lunar new year - the year of the tiger. Let's hope it is not the Tiger King! Third, February is the shortest month of the year. Fitting for a month that's all about rodents, shadows and tiger kings! Valentine's Day will add a little love to the mix. Why does getting through February take so long? It is because as soon as the calendar flips, we are in our spring fishing season! And we are eager.

If you are needing to get out this month and scratch the itch, it just might be from flees on the groundhogs! But if you want to fish, there are options. The river near town is in full gorge mode. No fishing from say 8 mile all the way to the lake. If you still want to fish, try below Ennis Lake or above Lyons Bridge. Some good midge hatches have been happening in the Beartrap, on afternoons with no wind. Might just get your dry fly fish for the month. Buzzballs and paramidges will scoop up anything eating midges. Otherwise, nymphing is the name of the game. Go deep with lots of lead. We like stone fly nymphs, midge larva, eggs, worms, all on stiff tippet of 2X. Once you find the fish, there should be more in the hole. Keep at it.

Good days ahead, as long as we get past the *rodent-tiger-king* month. Lots of new inventory arriving daily, so stop by the store or check out the website on the inter web. Maybe your Valentine would like some new fishing duds? Remember, the advice and coffee are always free. Keep doing that snow dance, as we are currently sitting at 99%. We could use a few more systems to dump the white stuff. Snow dances help. Keep drinking that whiskey while listening to mid-90's hip hop and you will start to dance. Let us know if we can help in any way. *Good Fishing and God Bless*, 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.

If people concentrated on the REALLY important things in life, there would be a shortage of fishing poles! 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/>

ERA LANDMARK ARROW REAL ESTATE → 222 E. Main Street, Unit 1-D → POB 546 → Ennis, MT 59729
Associated with ERA LANDMARK Real Estate, with offices in Bozeman, Big Sky, Livingston & Ennis, Montana
(406) 682-4290 → www.arrowreal.com → <http://eralandmark.com/communities/ennis>

- ✚ Joe Dilschneider's Montana Trout Stalkers at <http://www.montanatroutrout.com/>
- ✚ Yellowstone Fly Fishing at <http://www.yellowstoneflyfishing.com/madisonreport.htm>.

➤ **WEATHER** → January was quite mild, especially with days so balmy, most of the valley snow melted! The daytime high in January was 49° and low of 2°. The nighttime high was 35° and low of -3°. You need a very flexible wardrobe! **The snowpack is now at 99%! Need more moisture!** Check out snow conditions at: <https://bigskyresort.com/snow-report>.

➤ **REAL ESTATE TIPS** → **REAL ESTATE TIPS** → **RADON**. January was **National Radon Action Month**. Most people don't give it much thought, but the EPA estimates that nearly 21,000 lung cancer deaths each year are radon related. Radon gas is a byproduct of the underground decay of radioactive elements such as uranium and thorium. As these substances deteriorate, the gas is released before eventually working its way to the surface of the ground and into the air we breathe. Radon gas has been detected in every state in the U.S., but some areas pose a higher risk than others. Some parts of the Madison Valley and Big Sky have high levels of Radon. Homeowners can have a qualified home inspector test for Radon and all new home buyers should have Radon levels checked as part of their home inspection. Read more at: [2016 a citizens guide to radon.pdf \(epa.gov\)](#). FYI, Radon can get into your home in many ways:

- Cracks in Solid floors
- Construction joints
- Cracks in walls & floors
- Gaps in suspended floors
- Gaps around service pipes
- Cavities inside walls
- And in your Water supply

➤ **HOME FOR YOUR SOUL. FEATURED PROPERTY OF THE MONTH. TWENTY+ ACRES WITH VIEWS AND ACCESS TO THE MADISON RIVER.** **Sphinx Mountain Lot 28** offers spectacular 360° views and good year around access. A seasonal ditch runs through the center of the lot, which adds a pleasing water feature during summer months. All lot owners have exclusive access to world-class fishing on the Madison River, through a strip of B.L.M. land. The property is just a few miles from several popular fishing access points, and Cliff & Wade Lakes and Quake & Hebgen Lakes are within 30 minutes. Located in a beautiful river valley with abundant recreational opportunities. Yellowstone Park is 60 miles to the south, Ennis is 15 miles north and Bozeman is 55 miles NE of Ennis. Private road passes are available to locals for access through Jack Creek to Big Sky for world-class skiing. **\$175,000**, MLS # 366638. Google Earth Coordinates: Lat. 45.164813°, Lon. -111.684450°, Elevation: 5,470'.



➤ **CURRENT REAL ESTATE NEWS** → **WASHINGTON** (January 27, 2022) – **Pending home sales fell in December, denoting two straight months of declines**, according to the National Association of Realtors®. All four major U.S. regions posted both month-over-month and year-over-year drops in contract activity. The Pending Home Sales Index (PHSI), a forward-looking indicator of home sales based on contract signings, fell 3.8% to 117.7 in December. Year-over-year, transactions decreased 6.9%. An index of 100 is equal to the level of contract activity in 2001.

ERA LANDMARK ARROW REAL ESTATE → 222 E. Main Street, Unit 1-D → POB 546 → Ennis, MT 59729
Associated with ERA LANDMARK Real Estate, with offices in Bozeman, Big Sky, Livingston & Ennis, Montana
(406) 682-4290 → www.arrowreal.com → <http://eralandmark.com/communities/ennis>

"Pending home sales faded toward the end of 2021, as a diminished housing supply offered consumers very few options," said Lawrence Yun, NAR's chief economist. "Mortgage rates have climbed steadily the last several weeks, which unfortunately will ultimately push aside marginal buyers."

Even with December's slowdown in transactions, Yun says last year was an overall great period for housing in terms of sales and price appreciation. "The market will likely endure a minor reduction in sales as mortgage rates continue to edge higher," he added. **Yun forecasts the 30-year fixed mortgage rate to jump to 3.9% by the fourth quarter and existing-home sales to dip by 2.8% to 5.95 million units.**

With December marking a third straight month of increased home construction, Yun expects housing inventory to continue improving and contribute to slower home price growth in 2022. He forecasts housing starts to rise to 1.65 million units and home prices to increase 5.1%. "The combination of a more measured demand and rising supply will bring housing prices better in line with wage growth," Yun said.

Realtor.com's Hottest Housing Markets data in December showed that out of the largest 40 metros, the most improved markets over the past year were Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, Fla.; Tampa-St. Petersburg, Fla.; Jacksonville, Fla.; Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, Texas; and Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, Colo.

December Pending Home Sales Regional Breakdown: Month-over-month, the Northeast PHSI fell 1.2% to 98.2 in December, a 10.5% decline from a year ago. In the Midwest, the index dropped 3.7% to 112.8 last month, down 1.2% from December 2020.

Pending home sales transactions in the South slid 1.8% to an index of 145.2 in December, down 3.9% from December 2020. **The index in the West decreased 10.0% in December to 95.0, down 16.2% from a year prior.**

The National Association of Realtors® is America's largest trade association, representing more than 1.5 million members involved in all aspects of the residential and commercial real estate industries.

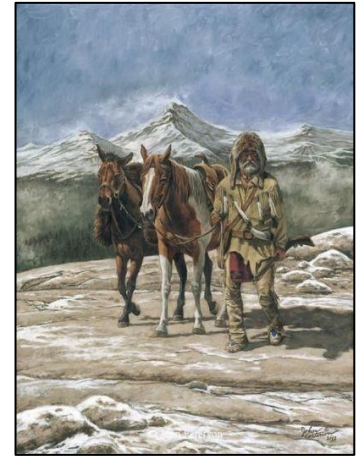
➤ **LOCAL REAL ESTATE MARKET STATISTICS:** No rest for the weary! Winter used to mean that real estate business slowed down, and we could rest, reorganize, and revitalize. But no more! Buyers are still on the hunt and sellers are eager to oblige. Even with the limited inventory, we still seem to be able to find properties to buy or sell. So, bring it on! **Big Sky Country** Multiple Listing statistics for the Madison Valley area (including Ennis, Cameron, McAllister, Norris, Virginia City, Nevada City, Harrison, Pony), for the month of **JANUARY** were as follows:

- **HOMES:** 17↓ homes listed (\$260,000 to \$2,950,000); 13↑ pending sales (\$199,900 to \$995,000); and 7 homes have sold in 2022 (\$360,000 to \$1,285,000), totaling \$4,752,900, at **100%**↑ of list prices.
- **LAND:** 36↓ vacant lots listed (\$95,000 to \$750,000); 12↓ pending sales (\$79,000 to \$575,000); and 18 lots have sold in 2022 (\$60,000 to \$405,000), totaling \$4,591,000, at **93.3%** of list prices.
- **RANCHES:** 1↓ ranch listed (\$7,995,000); 0 pending sales, and 0 ranches have sold in 2022.
- **COMMERCIAL:** 9↑ properties listed (\$300,000 to \$7,900,000); 2 pending sales (\$199,900 to \$465,000) and 0 commercial properties have sold in 2022.

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

ERA LANDMARK ARROW REAL ESTATE → 222 E. Main Street, Unit 1-D → POB 546 → Ennis, MT 59729
Associated with ERA LANDMARK Real Estate, with offices in Bozeman, Big Sky, Livingston & Ennis, Montana
(406) 682-4290 → www.arrowreal.com → <http://eralandmark.com/communities/ennis>

➤ **MONTANA TRIVIA...** *Did you know that ... people have been in Yellowstone more than 11,000 years? This is shown by archeological sites trails and oral histories.* Based on the park's location at the convergence of the Great Plains, Great Basin, and Columbia Plateau, many Native American Tribes have traditional connections to the land and its resources. For over 10,000 years before Yellowstone became a national park, it was a place where Native Americans hunted, fished, gathered plants, quarried obsidian, and used thermal waters for religious and medicinal purposes. European Americans began exploring in the early 1800's, and many historians believe that John Colter might have been the first white man to travel through Yellowstone. Colter was a skilled mountain man and explorer who journeyed to the Pacific with the Lewis and Clark Expedition from 1803 to 1806. He set out from a fur-trading fort at the mouth of the Big Horn River in 1807 and made his way south to present-day Cody, WY, according to a map from William Clark that shows the trail Colter took. But his exact route remains one of pioneer history's most-debated questions. But a stone was found with the scrawled words "John Colter, 1808" was found in a field outside of Teton, ID. It could be proof if it really is a relic of his journey.



SEE YOU IN MONTANA!

Social Distancing Champions, since 1889! STAY SAFE, SANE AND SOBER!

"Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood.

Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less." Marie Curie



Toni Bowen, Broker Associate and Accredited Buyer Broker representative, with over 28 years of real estate experience, covering residential, commercial, vacant land, recreational & ranch properties in the Madison Valley.



Don Bowen, with 57 years as a licensed Broker, has placed his real estate license on "inactive" status in 2021, and will be a consultant and assistant to Toni. This is a new chapter for the Bowen Team.



Our new office on the Boardwalk at the Lone Elk Mall →

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

ERA LANDMARK ARROW REAL ESTATE → 222 E. Main Street, Unit 1-D → POB 546 → Ennis, MT 59729
 Associated with ERA LANDMARK Real Estate, with offices in Bozeman, Big Sky, Livingston & Ennis, Montana
 (406) 682-4290 → www.arrowreal.com → <http://eralandmark.com/communities/ennis>

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

<http://www.jackcreekpreserve.org/> - foundation that provides outdoor education and experiences.

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

<https://madisonjefferson.msuextension.org/> - water test kits, soil sampling, plant & insect id, etc.

<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.

<https://www.mtmemory.org/>. Montana Memory Project – find all about the history of Montana!

SKIING:

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

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

HORSEBACK RIDING:

<https://www.facebook.com/wolfpackmontana> – trail riding guides for the Madison Valley

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

RANCHING:

<https://www.facebook.com/madisonvalleyranchlandsgroup/>- keeping 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