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A7 - A9!

The Madisonian.

THE LOCAL NEWS OF THE MADISON VALLEY, RUBY VALLEY AND SURROUNDING AREAS

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County airports

Master Planning Study starts on Ennis airport

ABIGAIL DENNIS
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Madison County's relationship with airport needs is one of growth. "It seems like we always need more," said Madison County commissioner Jim Hart. "It's not that way in all counties. But Madison County is growing, and the Madison Valley is really growing with the kind of activity that puts a demand on our airport."

That "kind of activity" includes people flying into the Ennis-Big Sky Airport to visit their second or third home in Big Sky, or to stay in the Madison Valley to hunt or fish.

"We're growing," Hart said. "And the people who can and do fly in are getting more powerful jets."

It is because of the more powerful jets that the Ennis-Big Sky Airport's master plan needs updating.

"The airport is on the cusp of going from a B-II to a C-II, which has to do with the type of air traffic," Hart said.

The distinction is due to the performance characteristics of the aircrafts using the facility, according to Lance Bowser, engineer with Robert Peccia and Associates, the firm that handles engineering and construction on Madison County's airports.

"Madison County is currently undertaking a Master Planning Study," said Bowser. "This study focuses on the existing aircraft usage, overall forecasting, and forecasting for type of aircraft usage (size, weight, aircraft performance characteristics, etc.) ... The Master Planning Study aims to help assure the facilities at the airport safely accommodate the aircraft currently utilizing, and aircraft anticipated to utilize the airport in the future."

... Madison County is growing, and the Madison Valley is really growing with the kind of activity that puts a demand on our airport."

**Jim Hart,
Madison County
commissioner**

Nearly three of five steps in crafting a new Master Planning Study are already complete - defining existing facilities and completing forecasting. Currently, work on determining the type of facilities required to safely handle the forecasts is underway.

"(Following that) we will facilitate a public presentation, which I anticipate to occur in late January," Bowser said.

After public information sharing and input, two more steps must be completed: determining the best alternatives or options to meet the requirements and determining financial feasibility and implementation.

"The entire study typically takes 12 to six months to complete, as they are a step-by-step process, with periodic review by Madison County, the (Federal Aviation Administration) and public participation meetings," Bowser said. "We don't move on to the next steps until the initial steps are finalized."

Recent work

"We purchased property awhile back, along with (an automated weather observing system - AWOS III)," said Hart. "We initially paid for it

Turn to AIRPORT on p. A2

Changes in the weather



ABIGAIL DENNIS/THE MADISONIAN

Storm fronts move across the region, bringing some much-anticipated snow.

Arctic airmass moves into Montana, temperatures drop and snow falls

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Late last week and over the weekend, a significant change in the weather pattern brought a large storm system through Madison County and Montana.

The storm system developed in the Gulf of Alaska and moved southeast into Canada and on to the United States - it is the kind of system that often benefits Southwest Montana, according to Roger Martin, meteorologist with the National Weather Service's Great Falls forecast office.

"When we get systems like the one this weekend that came off the Pacific Ocean, that pulls in moisture from the south and west and brings it into Southwest Montana," Martin said. "Sometimes, the

mountains get the brunt of that moisture, and the valleys get the shadow effect."

In addition to weather patterns, Southwest Montana's terrain - valleys and mountains - impacts what areas receive the most moisture.

"The system that brought the snow (Dec. 2) was one that came from the Pacific," he added.

Weak La Niña

The National Weather Service predicts this winter will be a weak La Niña, which is usually a good thing for Madison County.

"As of the end of November, they are expecting a weak La Niña to continue through the winter season with a 50 percent chance," Martin said. "For Southwest Montana, temperatures are expected to be

close to or just above normal through the winter. Precipitation wise, there is a good chance of being above normal."

That is a good thing considering this fall has been relatively warm and pretty dry.

"Forecast is for us to get back into a more normal temperature pattern with some precipitation," Martin added.

On any given year, the National Weather Service predicts the type of winter to come - a La Niña, El Niño, neutral year or something else.

"There are associated weather patterns across the globe," Martin explained. "Each type of year favors different areas. In general, when we say this winter is going to be La Niña, we have a good idea what kind of weather patterns will set up across the world."

Solid Waste Board

MACo representative discusses possible safety improvements at county sites

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On Nov. 29, Madison County's Solid Waste Board met at the county's administrative building in Virginia City for its regular meeting, and heard a presentation from Jim Muskovich.

Muskovich is a loss control specialist with the Montana Association of Counties, which insures Madison County's 11 solid waste sites.

"I'm afraid I'm the bearer of somewhat bad news," Muskovich said. "We don't have certain things in place that would safeguard the public and employees (at the sites)."

Muskovich said the fact that Madison County does not

have certain safeguards in place "came to a head" when the Department of Labor and Industry inspected the solid waste sites, and recommended a guarding system, like railing and fence, be put into place.

In the last two years, MACo has dealt with five incidents in the western part of Montana that have been a result of falling - those lawsuits have been for more than \$750,000, Muskovich said.

"You need a railing system anytime you have a fall more than 40 inches," he said, referring to open dumpsters at solid waste sites. "Our recommendation is that each county facility upgrade."

Muskovich said there are multiple ways to accomplish

upgrades, and the Treasure State Endowment Program grant system has specific money set aside for solid waste improvements, if the county chooses to move forward and apply for a grant.

Guarding is the number one issue, but containment is another, Muskovich said.

"For example, the Nevada City site is open to anyone anytime," he said. "Things are probably placed in there that shouldn't be. Containing the sites helps us as your insurer, and helps you."

Containment means staffing, which could be a burden on a rural county like Madison.

"It's hard to open each (solid waste site) for eight hours every day," Muskovich said. "There's

always shuffling people around and having different sites open different days."

Several Montana counties have not wanted to contain their solid waste sites, but Muskovich said they eventually saw the value once they were hit with lawsuits.

"I hope you look at it as not an expenditure, but something that saves on expenses through mitigation," Muskovich said.

State guidelines

Muskovich is currently waiting on the state to release formal guidelines, but said he has a pretty good idea of what those will be.

Turn to WASTE on p. A2

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| TABLE OF CONTENTS | | | |
|-------------------|---------|----------------|-----|
| Local News | A1-3, 5 | Columns | B3 |
| Sports | A2 | Comics/Games | B4 |
| Gift Guide | A7-9 | Classifieds | B5 |
| Lifestyle | B1 | Public Notices | B6 |
| Health & Wellness | B2 | Calendar | B10 |

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AIRPORT from pg. 1

ourselves with airport board funds, but we had an idea it would be eligible for FAA reimbursement.”

The land purchased was two 10.2 acre-parcels, and allowed for the reconstruction of the taxiways and aprons at the airport, which wrapped

up at the beginning of August, according to Bowser. An AWOS III was also installed over the summer. The weather observing system allows incoming pilots to find out specifically what the weather is in Ennis, instead of looking up Bozeman or Dillon and guessing from there.

“There are no other weather stations located in the Madison Valley. The numerous mountain ranges cause the weather in Ennis to sometimes be significantly different than even the closest other weather reporting systems,” Bowser explained. “This information is a critical element for aviation safety,

especially during inclement weather conditions.”

The system disseminates certified weather conditions, including altimeter, visibility, wind speed and direction, wind gusts, temperature, dew point, density altitude, precipitation and cloud high, according to Bowser.

WASTE from pg. 1

Denny Lueck, solid waste foreman for the county, asked how raiiling will be effective, since many people stand in their truck beds when they unload garbage, and would fall right over any fencing or raiiling.

“Maybe you add curbing so they can't back up so far,” Muskovich said. “It all depends on how you want to address safety.”

Solid Waste Board member Sue Heald asked if guarding or containment is more important to address.

“The guarding without a doubt,” Muskovich answered. “If you meet the goals, your insurance rates go down.”

Muskovich said the board members are the ones in the “hot seat.”

“Most people will get used to it,” he said, referring to any changes the board recommends the county make. “I see it's a double edged sword. I'm a safety guy, so I get the rationale, but as a citizen, I get the rationale, but I see it's cumbersome.”

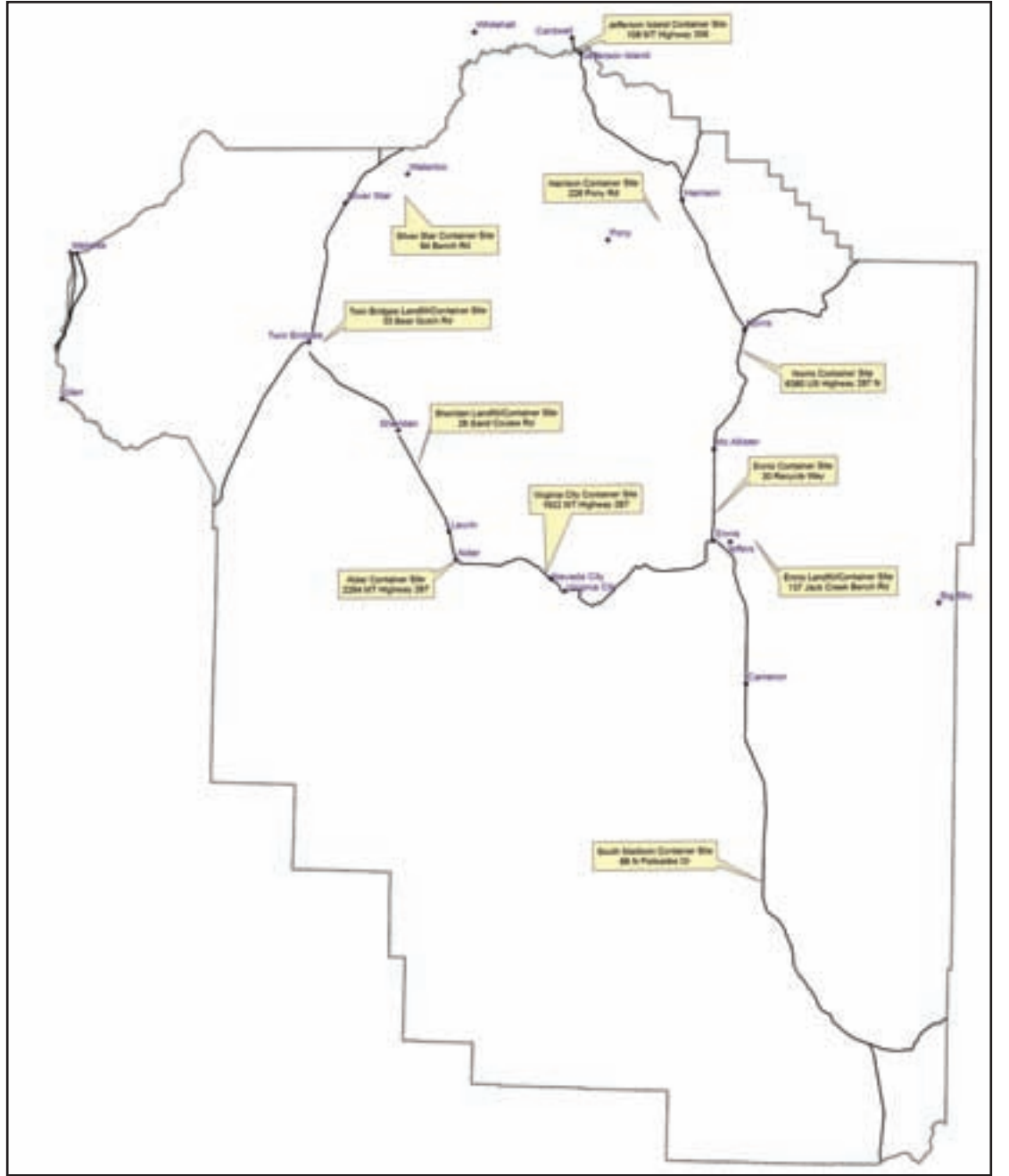
Board member Ed Armstrong pointed out that a “little old lady” with her garbage might not be able to get it in the dumpster if there was a 42 inch fence.

“That's a good argument for having a site attendant,” Muskovich said. “Logistically, there are a lot of possibilities.

The board agreed to continue the discussion of potential safety upgrades at future meetings, and Heald asked solid waste clerk Kacey Smart if she could compile information about use at each site.

Smart said the use data is not exact, but close, and that she would have it available for board members at the next meeting.

The site at Palisades



Cameron resident Terry Quirk attended the meeting to bring the board's attention to issues at the Palisades solid waste site, located in the Madison Valley.

Quirk said there are three problems: waste is blown from the site into the nearby riparian area, river and subdivision; ravens are getting habituated to the site and

spreading trash everywhere; and something needs to happen to prevent human/bear conflict.

“The use out there is tremendous,” Quirk said. “Let's get it so it's not an attractive nuisance, just an attractive facility.”

Currently, privately funded work to prevent human/bear conflict at the site is under-

COURTESY MADISON COUNTY
Madison County's solid waste site locations.

way, but the board was not appraised of what the final design will look like, and requested Steve Primm, with People and Carnivores, be at their next meeting to explain the project.

BASKETBALL ROUND UP

Harrison, Sheridan participate in Big Sky tournament

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HARRISON/WILLOW CREEK

Basketball season started for two of Madison County's schools last weekend - the Harrison/Willow Creek Wildcats and the Sheridan Panthers traveled to Big Sky for an opening weekend tournament.

Read on to see how the teams fared.

Boys

Wildcat Derik DeFrance had an outstanding game against Absarokee on Dec. 3 and racked up more than half of the team's total points, but the Harrison/Willow Creek boys lost, 46 - 58.

Though the Wildcats led 11 - 10 at the end of the first

quarter, they struggled getting to the net in the second quarter and Absarokee pulled ahead.

Head coach Nick Dyk pointed out DeFrance also collected 10 rebounds, while his teammate Lane Buss notched seven assists. Buss was the second-highest scorer for the Wildcats with 10.

Matt Strong and Donny Crill also made the scoreboard with four apiece.

verines, head coach Clay Pierson said the team is going to work on simple ball handling drills and reading the defense. He was, however, “tickled” with one particular thing the team excelled at - rebounding.

* Scores and stats were not provided to The Madisonian by press time on Tuesday.

Girls

The West Yellowstone Lady Wolverines bested the Panthers over the weekend, 33 - 16, but head coach Matthew Rockeman said it was a “generally good” game for the ladies from Sheridan.

“It was 22 - 16 at the end of the third (quarter),” Rockeman said. “Our scorers got into foul trouble, which explains why we didn't score in the fourth quarter.”

The Lady Panthers played tough, aggressive defense, which Rockeman was happy to see.

“It gets me excited for the season,” he said. “I have a good group. My upper classmen have good attitudes and were good on-floor leaders. I have six freshmen who are pretty outstanding. They are learning quick.”

Senior Janie Smart led the team with seven points. Micara Devereaux and Destiny Fabel each had four points, and Zoe Lee had a point in the first quarter.

“A big push for us is going to be maintaining an aggressive stance, but cutting down on the amount of our fouls,” Rockeman said. “We can't afford to foul out when we have eight or nine kids.”



PHOTO COURTESY ABBIGAIL LEE
Janie Smart from Sheridan plays tough defense.

Girls

The Harrison/Willow Creek girls played Absarokee close until they got into foul trouble, according to head coach Zach Dyk.

“We had some things that we can build on and we had some things I don't want to see again,” Dyk said. “We have to take care of the ball and rebound. We didn't, we lost.”

Josie Hokanson led the Lady Wildcats with 27 points. Alexys Bacon scored four, Samantha Talley and Stephanie Strong each scored three, Aleena Bacon knocked down a field goal and Shellane Strozzi and Rosie Chater rounded out the scoreboard with one apiece.

Though they were just two points behind at halftime, the Harrison/Willow Creek Lady Wildcats ended up losing to Absarokee 41 - 71.

SHERIDAN

Boys

Despite losing to the West Yellowstone Wol-

MORE NEWS:



PHOTO COURTESY KAYLA SANDRU
Twin Bridges rancher Rick Sandru.

Sandru receives award from Montana Association of Conservation Districts

CAITLIN AVEY
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"You can sit in big meetings and holler and scream at one another and not accomplish anything. But as soon as you sit down and listen, you realize you have a lot in common and then you can start a conversation from there," said Twin Bridges rancher Rick Sandru, explaining why working with various partners to achieve land management goals is beneficial.

Sandru was recently selected as Conservation District Supervisor of the Year for the Montana Association of Conservation Districts for his work and collaboration with various ranching and grazing associations, conservation districts and government agencies.

"(Sandru) goes above and beyond the job description of a supervisor," said Ruby Valley Watershed Coordinator Rebecca Ramsey in a Facebook post announcing his award. "He is a rancher, a visionary, a leader and recognizes the value of collaboration to find solutions."

Sandru serves on many boards throughout the county including the Ruby Valley Stockgrowers, where he serves as president of the multiple ranch grazing association. He also helped in the development of the Upper Ruby Weed Management Cooperative, sits on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest Working Group to help the United States Forest Service with decisions on management and resources, helped found the Madison County Livestock Loss Board and has worked with numerous partners to create modifications to the Forest Jobs and Recreation Act.



"He is a founder of the Ruby Valley Strategic Alliance, a new partnership effort to address issues in the greater Ruby Watershed and he supports our incredible board of supervisors and our employees, and has even personally financed continuing education opportunities for them," Ramsey stated in the post.

"I take a lot of pride in the fact that there have been relationships developed over a number of years that have enabled us to have members of major conservation groups in Southwest Montana not only sit at the table with us, but act as some of the strongest advocates for ranching in Southwest Montana," Sandru said. "We have (organizations) actively advocating for us, and watching what goes on with forest permits. If things come up, they call us, but they also comment and put their money where their mouth is."

Sandru was nominated for the position by Ramsey and selected from a pool of 400 applicants.

"(Sandru) is first and foremost a rancher," Ramsey stated in the nomination form. "He recognizes the value of working well with the state and federal agencies and the need to invite unusual partners to the table to work on solutions together."

Ramsey also said Sandru supports the use of public lands for all by working with the Montana Wilderness Association, the Greater Yellowstone Coalition and other permittees.

"He teaches stewardship to each generation and to all he encounters," Ramsey said. "(Sandru) is more deserving of supervisor of the year than I can possibly put into words."

For Sandru, however, what drives him to do it is simple. "There are so many things to work on, so I just do it," he said. "As a member of the ranching community, I feel strongly about trying to give back, and this is my way."

PHOTO COURTESY REBECCA RAMSEY
Rick Sandru with his award.

WINTER DRIVING

Sheriff Thompson offers tips for staying safe on slick roads

ABIGAIL DENNIS
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Though he made us wait this year, Old Man Winter finally showed his face last week, which means icy roads and possibly dangerous driving conditions.

"So far we've just seen one vehicle slide offs into ditches," said Madison County Sheriff Roger Thompson.

Thompson said the sheriff's office has not had to deal with any serious crashes resulting in fatalities, but there have been incidents of cars, trucks and semis sliding off roadways.

"The roads aren't cold yet because we had a warm fall," Thompson explained. "Then when you get snow on a warm road, that makes for slick conditions."

The number one reason drivers lose control is because they are going too fast for the conditions, he added.

Since Madison County is geographically large, Thompson said different areas of the county are dangerous at different times.

"The south Madison (Valley) consistently gets the worst weather because it is at a higher elevation," he said. "If I had to say what spot is the worst, Norris Hill is the worst for slide offs with semis that won't chain up. It happens every year."

When semi-truck drivers choose not to chain up and sometimes slide on the hill, it creates hazardous conditions for other drivers, Thompson added.

Staying safe

Thompson offered a few tips for driving safely in winter conditions.

"The standard is, if it is snowing, slow down," he said. "It gets cold enough at night now the roads are freezing."

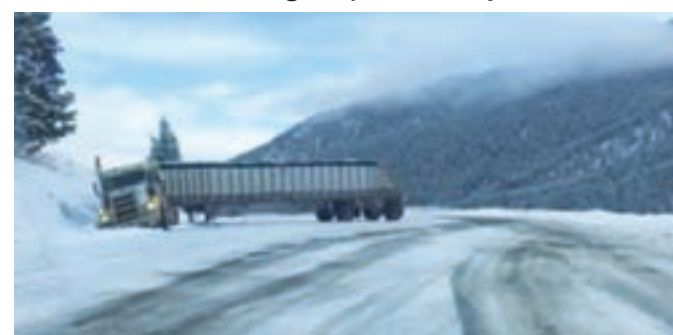
Thompson said awareness is beneficial as well – when drivers are aware of conditions, they take it into consideration.

"Give yourself more time to get to your destination," he concluded.



Sheriff Roger Thompson

RACHEL ANDERSON/THE MADISONIAN
A semi slides off U.S. Highway 287 near Quake Lake.



State of the water: Virginia City hears preliminary report findings from Great West Engineering about deficiencies in water system

CAITLIN AVEY
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"Our main focus was on the northeast corner of town and were able to come up with a laundry list of tasks," said Dan McCauley with Great West Engineering. "Basically, there have been no major improvements to the town's water system for 20 years."

Prior to their regularly scheduled council meeting on Dec. 1, the Virginia City Council, along with seven members of public, heard a presentation from Great West Engineering on a Preliminary Engineering Report on the city's water system. While no urgent matters arise at this point in time, McCauley said the PER is a "start."

"What we have here is a start," he said, adding there are bigger issues than infrastructure. "There are some city planning issues."

Matt Mudd with GWE was also present at the meeting and started the presentation with a 20 year projection for the town, which he compiled from previous growth years.

Currently, the town has one 500,000 gallon tank, two springs and transmission on 8 inch and 10 inch valves and an existing water

right dating prior to 1900.

"It's been determined that the capacity you're able to obtain with those has exceeded your water right," Mudd said, adding the Department of Environmental Quality likes to see if a town water system can meet state demands when the highest producing spring or well is out of service. "It can't meet that now and it couldn't meet that in the future," he said.

Findings

As it stands now, both Mudd and McCauley stated the PER found no urgent fixes, but minor deficiencies that the town will want to address in the future.

"You did an update in 2010 to your chlorination system and that looks good," said Mudd, adding DEQ likes to see a backup generator as well, but it is not critical. "There were no major deficiencies in your tank, just some minor corrosion, and we recommend regular inspection, as well as no major leaks."

Mudd did state that the main and fire flows were undersized, meaning backflow can be a concern. The PER also showed the town's sewer system was in good shape, thanks to already-completed rehabilitation

work.

PER in a nutshell

Mudd gave a list of all the deficiencies discovered by the PER: no backup supply or generator, repair concrete in spring one, schedule regular tank inspections, undersized mains and valves, low pressure in the northeast part of town and backflow concerns.

He also listed some alternative options to go about fixing the deficiencies, as well as funding options and costs.

"The total cost is right around \$900,000, and that can be met through different grants and funding from the town," Mudd said. "Right now, there is no compliance order from DEQ, meaning nothing is urgent right now – this is just something to get the conversation started."

McCauley emphasized the low pressure of the northeast part of town as one of the top concerns, stating it has the potential for something to go wrong.

"We have a problem, that's why we are here," said former Virginia City mayor Robert Erdall. "The city could be culpable if there is a problem and that's why we're trying to resolve it."

Regular council meeting

Following the presentation from GWE, councilmember met for their regularly scheduled meeting where they unanimously accepted the PER and appointed Erdall as the new public works director.

"As you know, we will be losing Roger Williams as our public works director and we have gone through the hiring process and have chosen (Erdall), who will start on Jan. 1," said Mayor Scott Petersen.

"I've been here since the new water system and fixing it up is going to be one of my priorities," Erdall said.

Erdall has been a resident of Virginia City for 44 years and served as mayor for six years.

Other business

- The ice rink was skate-able by the end of last week and Virginia City Ice will be hosting a skating with Santa event at the rink on Dec. 17, complete with a skate tutorial.

- Winterfest has been bumped up to Jan. 14 – 16.

- Councilmembers briefly addressed the state of the Dudley building downtown and are determining whether or not to issue a letter to the owner regarding the falling brick and the closure of the sidewalk.

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5 p.m. - Friday

Buzz from the schools

Hello from Alder!

The students from Alder School were surprised and delighted when they returned from winter break last year to find a greenhouse waiting for them. "It's not green!" one student stated, "But I'm still excited to use it." Because of support from generous community members and grants including Captain Planet Foundation and Whole Kids Foundation, our school was able to purchase an 8x12 greenhouse. Our 8mm polycarbonate windows are hail-resistant and can withstand heavy Montana snow and the vents on the roof maintain the interior temperature in warmer months. There are three raised beds inside with optional potting tables and plenty of upper shelving for storage and extra grow room. In January of 2016 our students started gardening indoors using grow lights, and when the plants were strong enough we moved them out to our greenhouse in March where they flourished. This fall we started an experimental winter crop

in our greenhouse consisting of mostly native vegetables. By November, students had already collected three harvests and plants are still going strong. The students provided a salad of freshly picked greens and radishes at a recent Title I family night potluck. It is so worthwhile to see students learning and experiencing the benefits of gardening even in an area with a short growing season.

Gardens provide a wealth of opportunities for kids to get their hands dirty while learning lessons in many different areas of curriculum. Our students can study plant anatomy and botanical life science, and those are just the beginning. The students are also able to apply many math concepts such as measuring and graphing to name a couple. The greenhouse gives our school all the benefits mentioned above, with the added reward of valuable nutrition lessons on the importance and joys of eating fresh foods. New reports continue to show the alarming rise of nutrition-related health conditions such as diabetes and obesity in children and adults



across the United States. Our greenhouse allows us to enrich our curriculum lessons while also providing an opportunity to teach nutrition when students – and their families – sample their harvest. Children are much more likely to taste a vegetable they have grown, and vegetables always taste better straight from the garden.

Jamie Janosko
Alder School primary teacher

AROUND THE COUNTY

Kindred Spirits in the news

SUBMITTED BY ANN GOLDTHWAIT

Kindred Spirits Gift Gallery

Local Sheridan shop, Kindred Spirits Gift Gallery, was chosen as one of 25 retail shops in the nation for being a gifted retailer by Gifts and Decorative Accessories magazine.

The magazine said "our gifted retailers were not determined by how much money they make or how many stores they have. This list is based on what these retailers bring to their customers, whether through product mix, community based events or stellar customer service."

Specifically about Kindred Spirits, they wrote, "Kindred Spirits Gift Gallery is a museum and attraction gift shop specializing in local artists' merchandise. The store hosts artists receptions and an annual holiday open house."

This year's open house will be Dec. 17 from 5 to 8 p.m.

Madison County featured in novel

SUBMITTED BY JAN ELPPEL

Bozeman

I wrote *Berrigan's Ride*, a historical novel, for the folks of Madison County who know and love the land and remember how it used to be; how the blizzards and dog days felt, grass grew belly high and the west wind blew like wild horses plunging down the ravines.

The gold rush days lured the unsettled and displaced after the Civil War, a drama that comes to life in my story about Hot Spring and Norwegian creeks – one man's journey to find peace of mind and one woman's ambition to be part of something much greater than herself.

My family, Josephine Jewett and all, lived in Jefferson and Madison counties since the early days, our lives not too different from those of the pioneers who emigrated to Montana Territory.

Berrigan's Ride is available from www.hopspress.com, and online at Amazon and Barnes and Noble.

Angels for the MVMC

SUBMITTED BY STACY CROY

Madison Wranglers 4-H Club

The 4-H club, the Madison Wranglers, volunteered to help the Madison Valley Medical Center Auxiliary make angels for their tree of life that stands in the medical center lobby. Angels can be purchased in memory or in honor of someone. The angels will be personalized in calligraphy as the donor wishes by MVMC Auxiliary president Sandi Bourgeois.

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Silent auction for Sheridan library

SUBMITTED BY BILL TALBOTT

Sheridan Public Library

The Sheridan Public Library is holding a silent auction to benefit the expansion project. Among the items offered are a lamp and a candle – holder hand-crafted by local artisan Paul Marsh, lamps made with vintage books, an old-fashioned coffee grinder and an antique end table (with included plant). Auction items are available for viewing and bid at the Sheridan library. The auction will end on Dec. 20.

For more information, contact the library, 842-5770.

Ruby Valley Chorale

SUBMITTED BY NIKI MARTIN

Ruby Valley Chorale

The Ruby Valley Chorale will be singing a cantata entitled "Winter Rose" by Joseph M. Martin with narration by Pamela Martin. Performances will be on Sunday, Dec. 18, at Bethel United Methodist Church in Sheridan at 2:30 p.m. and at Church of the Valley in Twin Bridges at 7 p.m. The group is directed by Craig Ballou and accompanied by Linda Holden. Refreshments will be served after each performance.

Toys for Tots

SUBMITTED BY ED WALTER

Madison County Toys for Tots

The annual Madison County Toys for Tots program is underway for 2016.

This year the Marine Corp League's Toys for Tots volunteers will again be collecting names of families and children who would like to participate in this year's Christmas presents program.

You can call Ed Walter at 596-0594 or 684-5179 and leave your name and your children's ages and gender we will provide a set of presents packaged for each child.

This year the cutoff for taking names will be Dec. 15, so please hurry in those names. The present packages will then be available to be picked up on Sunday, Dec. 18 between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m., in the American Legion room above city hall in the Twin Bridges Firehouse.

We will also be accepting new, unwrapped toys and we have donation boxes out at Ruby Valley Bank in both Twin Bridges and Sheridan. Boxes are also located at The Shack in Twin Bridges and the Twin Bridges High School.

Christmas party at Bear Creek Schoolhouse

SUBMITTED BY JANET SMITH

Bear Creek Schoolhouse

Come join the Cameron community for some old time fun at the historic Bear Creek Schoolhouse. Festivities begin with a potluck supper at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 18.

Lots of time for catching up with friends and neighbors, followed by a Christmas singalong. The highlight of the evening is a visit from Santa Claus. (Parents please bring a small wrapped and labeled gift to place in Santa's bag in the entryway.) Adults are asked to bring non-perishable items for the food bank. Everyone is welcome.

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*The Madisonian does not endorse the viewpoints or statements of those who submit letters to the editor.
Please do your own research and check your facts.*

& MORE NEWS:

Christmas strolling in Ennis, Sheridan



Clockwise from left

ABIGAIL DENNIS/THE MADISONIAN
From L: Chelsea Mahsman and Trudi Gilliam work hard on their owl ice sculpture. This was the first year Ennis held an ice sculpting contest during their Dec. 2 stroll – Mahsman and Gilliam took first place.

CAITLIN AVEY/THE MADISONIAN
Ruby Valley residents loaded onto the tractor hay ride during the Dec. 2 Christmas stroll.

CAITLIN AVEY/THE MADISONIAN
The Hellwinkle family snapped a photo with Santa, who was present at the Christmas stroll asking for present requests and giving away fresh fruit.



PET SUCCESS Strays finding their way

CAITLIN AVEY
news@madisoniannews.com



Carol and Dave Delisi have quite the troop of animal companions on their 30 acre property in the Ruby Valley. With two dogs, two cats, two horses and 20 chickens, the Delisi's have a lot of furry beings to keep them company.

"Our last three dogs were adopted at the Dillon Animal Shelter ... they've all been lab mixes and brown or black," said Carol, adding black animals often get looked over. "So, for that reason, we always pick out the black lab mixes. And because we love the sweet lab personality."

The Delisi's adopted their dogs Mocha, who has since passed away, Luna and ZuZu as puppies so they could shape their experiences early on, but said puppies present their own challenges.

"We believe the challenges are worth it for the love and companionship of our animals," Carol said. The two felines of the family are Shadow and Hootie the Second, both domestic short hairs.

"Our two cats are amazingly loving for having spent quite a bit of time outdoors and having been left by someone," said Carol. "They both love our dogs and vice versa, and do a great job keeping the rodent population down in return for some time sleeping indoors on the couch or by the fire."

Though both dogs and both cats showed up at their door, Carol said she would recommend adoption for anyone thinking or looking for an animal companion. And, of course, spay and neuter your pets to help keep the homeless animal population down.

"The dogs and cats who come from shelters seem to be extra grateful for a loving home and return that love many times over," said Carol.



A FEELING OF ACCOMPLISHMENT AND A FULL FREEZER

Hi readers,

Another hunting season has drawn to a close. I've lived in the area for three years now and have grown to appreciate the tradition that hunting holds in Montana. This year, for the first time, I've been able to fully participate in this centuries-old ritual.

I know hunting isn't for everyone. For that matter, eating meat isn't for everyone, and I respect that. But I grew up in the Midwest where most of us are meat eaters and I can relate to a custom that allows providing for yourself and family from your own back yard.

The season ended Nov. 27, however, our work wasn't over. Mike and I process our own meat, and cutting up and packaging three elk, two deer and two antelope is quite an undertaking. Fortunately, we have friends who also process their own wild game, so we come together and the chore becomes a party! I shouldn't say 'we' – I was at the office and arrived in time for one hour of work and clean up. Everyone else had been at it all day, assembly-line style, churning

through the process and enjoying great company. The effort is always worth it – I haven't purchased meat at the store (other than bacon) in more than two years.

We have two huge chest freezers in our garage jam-packed with steaks, roasts, burgers and sausage. It is gratifying to be able to share with family and friends. Mike always processes elk for his mother, who lives near Flathead Lake, and we like sharing wild game with folks who don't hunt, or who have children and lots of mouths to feed.

An added bonus to hunting is time spent on horseback, hiking or camping in some of the most remote and beautiful areas of Montana. Hunting etiquette provides the opportunity for responsible wildlife conservation, which protects nature and the environment. In addition to providing for oneself and family, hunting allows for a unique relationship with the natural wilderness and the creatures that call it home. It is primal, instinctual, visceral.

Abigail





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District court round up

ABIGAIL DENNIS
editor@madisoniannews.com

Reynolds initial appearance
Donald R. Reynolds from Silver Star appeared at the Madison County Courthouse before Judge Loren Tucker on Dec. 5 on the charge of failing to notify the sheriff's office of a change in his residence and change of employment. According to court documents, Reynolds is a registered sexual offender with the Madison County Sheriff's Office and, as such, he is required "within three business days of the change, to appear in person and give notification of a change in residence or employment." Reynolds entered a not guilty plea to the charge and his previously posted bond of \$5,000 was continued.

Sharp pleads not guilty
Justin Richard Sharp appeared at the Madison County Courthouse on Dec. 5 before Judge Loren Tucker and entered not guilty pleas to three charges in a filed Information. Sharp was charged with altering labels on dangerous drugs; driving under the influence of alcohol, third offense, or the alternative of operating a noncommercial motor vehicle with alcohol concentration above .08; and driving with an expired registration, according to court documents. Sharp pleaded not guilty to all three charges. He was released pending a future court date.

SHERIDAN Students of the month

SUBMITTED BY
EMILY MCPARLAND
Sheridan Schools

Sheridan Schools is very pleased to announce the students of the month. Students are chosen by faculty and staff members based on the following criteria: citizenship, leadership and academic attitude.

- Kindergarten: Leigha Lowder
- First-grade: Brody Decker
- Second-grade: Ellen Brown
- Third-grade: Kaleb Schuller
- Fourth-grade: Tristan Stout
- Fifth-grade: Tucker Todd
- Sixth-grade: Henry Sutton
- Seventh-grade: Brooke Grow
- Eighth-grade: Mackenzie Fabel
- Ninth-grade: Zoe Lee
- Tenth-grade: Tyler Haag
- Eleventh-grade: Destiny Fabel
- Twelfth-grade: Janie Smart

FFA NEWS

Ruby Valley attends John Deere Ag Expo

SUBMITTED BY DESTINY FABEL
Ruby Valley FFA

On Nov. 17, the Ruby Valley FFA chapter loaded the bus full of enthusiasm and an urge to compete at the John Deere Ag. Expo. The event invites all FFA chapters around the state to compete on the Montana State University campus in agricultural based competitions such as mechanics, agronomy, livestock evaluation and ag. sales.

Over the course of three days, every chapter gets the chance to explore the college, attend workshops, compete in events and make new friends that will last a life time. Overall, the Ruby Valley chapter did very well at the expo with a third place parliamentary procedure team consisting of the chapter officers Destiny Fabel, Janie Smart, Zoe Lee, Tyler Haag, Juan Pablo Du-Pond and Charali Wetherbee. The chapter also had a 10th place junior agronomy team including members Zoe Lee, Madison Fabel and Amanda Grow. After returning from the successful event, members went to the Sheridan Elementary School for the alumni auction.



Welcome to Madison County's 2016 holiday gift guide

Every dollar spent in our Madison County communities circulates seven times, so completing your holiday shopping locally benefits your friends and neighbors. The idea of buying local is trendy - you can find articles about why it's profitable in a variety of news outlets from the Wall Street Journal to small town papers.

In Madison County, shopping in town benefits the local economy, but there are perks in it for the shopper as well! Take the time to explore our main streets and business districts in Twin Bridges, Sheridan, Virginia City, Ennis, Alder, Norris and Harrison, and you will soon realize Madison County shops have a lot to offer.



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MADISON COUNTY WEATHER

| Thursday | Generally sunny despite a few afternoon clouds. High around 20F. Winds S at 5 to 10 mph. |
|----------|---|
| Friday | Mostly cloudy with periods of snow during the afternoon. High 34F. Winds SSW at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of snow 70%. Snow accumulations less than one inch. |
| Saturday | Partly cloudy. High 28F. Winds SSW at 5 to 10 mph. |
| Sunday | Partly to mostly cloudy. High near 30F. Winds SSW at 5 to 10 mph. |
| Monday | Variably cloudy with snow showers. High 28F. Winds SSW at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of snow 40%. Snow accumulations less than one inch. |

Quote of the Week:

"Friends show their love in times of trouble, not in happiness."

Euripides

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PREPARING FOR THE WORST

How Madison County emergency responders plan for potential disaster

ALL PHOTOS: CAITLIN AVEY/THE MADISONIAN



Dustin Tetrault, director of emergency management, began the mock exercise with a morning briefing.

CAITLIN AVEY
news@madisoniannews.com

Despite nearly 4 inches of snow on the ground at the Sun West Ranch properties, disaster and emergency responders from across the county responded to a lightning started wildfire, which was raging out of control and headed toward a subdivision of mountain homes.

The mock accident was part of a training exercise sponsored by the Madison County Department of Emergency Management to provide participants an opportunity to assess capabilities, plans, policies and procedures, an exercise Dustin Tetrault said he has been preparing for eight months.

Tetrault has been the director for emergency management for just over a year, and said this was the first mock accident exercise that has been conducted for a while.

"We'll be looking at timely notification and use of evacuation phases to residents, our CodeRED alerting software, coordination between orga-

nizations and what changes we might need to make to our operations plan," he said.

Setting the scene

With participants from all facets of the county emergency services, including volunteer and paid responders, Tetrault started the 10:15 a.m. briefing outside the incident command post.

"We're dealing with a wildfire started by a lightning strike at 0900 on July 26 that is now raging out of control and burning toward the subdivision," he said. "The Department of Natural Resources (and Conservation Service), United States Forest Service and Madison Valley Rural Fire Department have crews on the scene and are in the process of requesting resources. They have contacted dispatch and are requesting first responders and deputies to evacuate the subdivision and estimate the fire edge to be encroaching on the subdivision within the next three to four hours. They have called in air support to establish retardant lines but unknown estimated time of arrival at this time. 25-1 (Madison County Sheriff Roger Thompson) is en-route to Sun West to establish incident command and is requesting all county resources responding to stage at Sun West Ranch Office for briefing. DES-1 is responding with the mobile command unit and has requested activation of county emergency operations center."

Outside the incident command post, a small camp trailer, which housed dispatch, a map of the area was provided and teams were broken down to begin the evacuation operations. Working on three channels; gold, red, violet, or Alpha, Bravo and Charlie, teams were quickly assembled, given the proper forms and dispersed

throughout the mountain, while dispatch initiated a mock CodeRED.

"Make sure to familiarize yourself with the packets and take your time," said Madison County Sheriff Roger Thompson.

Scenarios

With their packets in hand and an hour and half to complete the mock scenario, close to 30 emergency responders dwindled down to five at the ICP.

As a member of the press, I was treated to the semi-heated ICP and full access to Bonnie O'Neill, public information officer for Madison County. Pushing myself to step out of my comfort zone and my own personal journalistic ethics, I tried my best to push O'Neill for answers, per Tetrault's request, before ultimately hopping in a vehicle with the evaluating team out of Dillon to check out the scene and the progress of Madison County responders.

As I loaded in the truck of Dillon DES coordinator Tom Wagenknecht and Deputy Coordinator Scott Marsh, we checked our maps and headed out in pursuit of and emergency situation. Less than a mile into our trek, dispatch came across the radio.

"Shelters are opening at the Ennis High School and animals can be taken to the fairgrounds. I repeat, shelter opening at the Ennis High School and animals can be taken to the fairgrounds."

Armed only with my camera, pen and notepad, I had no idea what I was in for.

"Our job as evaluators is to check and see how quickly teams are able to clear the scene, timely notification and their coordination with ICP," said Marsh, adding he and Wagenknecht asked to be part of the mock exercise to get ideas of how to run their own in Beaverhead County.

Just then, dispatch came across the radio advising the fire was a mile west.



Dustin Tetrault and Bonnie O'Neill, Madison County public information officer, take questions from crews prior to the mock exercise.

The teams of emergency responders were quick to evacuate the area and clear the scene as time progressed, almost too on top of it for Marsh, Wagenknecht and myself to catch up. From scenarios with distraught homeowners unwilling to leave to juveniles home alone, to a broken back scenario that required medical attention, Marsh and Wagenknecht were impressed with the seriousness of the drill as well as the coordination with ICP.

"I think they're doing a really great job coordinating with ICP and all teams have provided a timely evacuation," stated Marsh as we charged around the mountain.

Both Marsh and Wagenknecht have served on Dillon's Volunteer Fire Department and were impressed to see members from all of Madison County's volunteer departments on hand for the scenario.

"Volunteerism is down nationwide," said Wagenknecht. "So it's really good to see representatives from all the departments here. It's amazing how far down (volunteerism) has gotten and how much money it saves in fire fighter costs."

Marsh, who served as Dillon's fire chief, agreed with Wagenknecht.

"I remember when there was a waiting list to join the department," he said. "Volunteers just don't stay as long

and the turnover is quick anymore, so it is really nice to see so many volunteers from the departments here.

Debriefing

"Crews have been out since 10:33 a.m.," said O'Neill around noon. "All crews are reporting back to ICP."

And just like that, all crews were back at ICP, calm and collected and ready for their debriefing.

"After the exercise, (Tetrault) went through a list of positive and negatives from the exercise, most of which were positive," said Madison County commissioner Jim Hart, who was at Friday's mock exercise. "They talked mostly about communication and there were some concerns that were brought up when dispatch was having to listen to three channels, so I'm glad that was brought up and that they plan to work on it."

Hart addressed the responders during the debriefing and mentioned how lucky he feels to live in Madison County where everyone is willing to work together.

"I mentioned to them how awesome it is to live where the fire departments, the Forest Service and the sheriff's office all work together, partly because they all know each other," he said. "It was just really awesome to see that."



Ron Abbott, fire chief with the Sheridan fire department, assembles his team.



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HEALTH & WELLNESS

Mental health treatment works: Part two

SUBMITTED BY
DR. CLAIRE O. LEONARD
Madison County Mental Health
Local Advisory Council

Madison County is fortunate in having several mental health and addiction counselors. Counselors or therapists have several different titles and types of training. Many have a master's or doctoral degree. Examples include psychiatrists (who can also prescribe medicines), psy-

chologists, licensed clinical professional counselors, licensed clinical social workers, licensed addiction counselors and psychiatric nurses. Some therapists treat only adults. Others specialize in child and adolescent therapy. Psychotherapy can be done individually, with a couple or family, or in a group. The Madison County Mental Health Local Advisory Council has put together a resource directory that lists Madison County

therapists and their contact information. Other therapists can be found in Dillon, Bozeman and Butte. Your doctor may have additional suggestions.

When choosing a therapist, be sure they are licensed by the state. This assures they have the proper training and skills to be of help. Licensed clinical professional counselors (LCPCs) and licensed clinical social workers (LCSWs) have a master's degree

and 3,000 hours of supervised counseling. They have passed state and national exams. Licensed addiction counselors (LACs) must have a bachelor's degree and 1,000 hours of supervised counseling. Medical doctors (MDs and DOs) and psychiatric nurses (APRNs and PNP) can prescribe and monitor medications but rarely do therapy. Psychologists may do counseling and psychometric testing.

Therapy may seem expen-

sive. You may think that your insurance will not cover it. Thanks to the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act, insurance plans that cover any mental health services must treat mental and physical health services the same – same co-pays, same criteria for determining medical necessity, same number of visits allowed, etc. Medicaid and Medicare cover therapy services. Many agencies have a sliding scale for those

without insurance coverage; individual payment plans can often be worked out.

All therapy is confidential and no one needs to know what was discussed, or even that you sought help from a therapist at all.

If you thought you might be having a heart attack, would you try to tough it out at home without consulting a doctor? Mental illness can be just as serious, so get help today.

DPHHS raising awareness about HIV; urging Montanans to get screened

SUBMITTED BY JON EBELT
Montana Department of Public
Health and Human Services

Dec. 1 was World AIDS
Day and the Montana Depart-

ment of Public Health and Human Services and local partners used the commemorative event as an opportunity to increase awareness about who may be at risk, and to

decrease the stigma of HIV/AIDS.

The 2016 World AIDS Day theme was "Leadership. Commitment. Impact." State-supported HIV treatment

and prevention programs are committed to reducing the epidemic in Montana by facilitating planning, implementing strategic HIV prevention activities and ensuring access

to HIV treatment.

"World AIDS Days is a time to reflect on the many Montanans who work so hard to enhance HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment ef-

forts in Montana, and to also remember those who have perished from the disease or are currently living with HIV," said Judy Nielsen of the DPHHS STD-HIV Prevention Section.

She also said additional health coverage options are also proving beneficial. In January 2016, Montana launched the HELP Plan (Medicaid expansion) that extended health coverage to thousands of state residents. The Ryan White Care Act also provides life-saving medication to hundreds of Montanans with HIV.

"Access to health care and treatment is critical because it allows persons with HIV to improve their health outcomes and live more productive and longer lives," Nielsen said.

Nielsen said the relatively low number of persons living with HIV in the state gives rise to the hope of one day "Getting to Zero," which was a recent World AIDS Day theme. Montana in 2016 currently has an estimated 620 residents living with HIV.

The number of new infections reported annually in Montana is fairly stable, averaging 20 people per year. However, given the recent increase in other sexually transmitted disease, officials are concerned that they could see additional HIV infections in the next few years. Certain STDs that result in ulcers or lesions can increase a person's susceptibility to infection with HIV.

A recent advance in the field of HIV prevention involves the use of medication taken by persons at high risk for acquiring HIV. Pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP, consists of taking a daily pill and has been proven to reduce the risk of infection if a person is exposed to HIV.

Another effective prevention method is treatment of individuals who are already infected with HIV. People living with HIV who are on HIV medications can lower the amount of virus in their blood to undetectable levels, substantially reducing the risk of sexual transmission of HIV to others.

To lower an individual's risk of HIV infection, public health authorities recommend the following:

- Reduce the number of sexual partners or remain in a long-term monogamous relationship.
- Talk to your partner about HIV and use latex condoms every time you have sex.
- Have an honest and open discussion with your health care provider about your sexual history and ask if you should be tested for STD and HIV.

In addition to advice from a health care provider, HIV counseling and testing services are available at the clinics listed on the <https://getcheckedmt.org> website.



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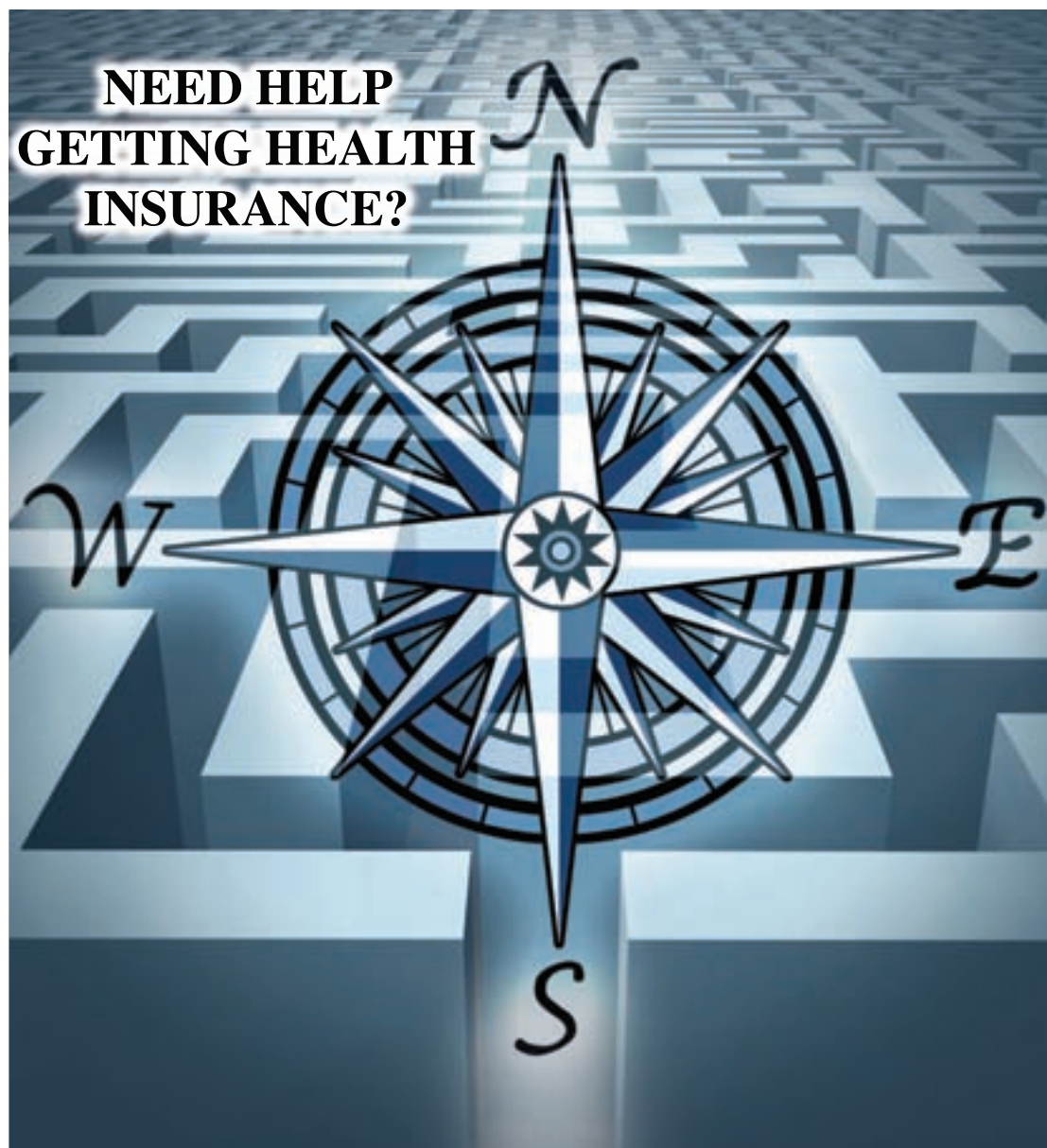
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COLUMNS



This, OUR VALLEY:

By Reverend Keith Axberg



The war on Christmas – Reporting from the trenches

There will be wars and rumors of wars; do not be disturbed – Matthew 24:6

I see the war on Christmas has returned.

I have good news. It appears to be restricted to the world of social media. No one else in the world seems to be worried about it. I presume that's because it is neither a real war, nor is it even a real thing. It's a made up war, mostly made up by people with a surplus of time on their hands.

That's not to say there ISN'T a war on Christmas. Just because a war doesn't exist doesn't mean it isn't happening.

A few weeks back a well-known coffee company brought out its holiday cup; they had the audacity to decorate it with people getting along peaceably with one another.

"What on earth has that got to do with Christmas?" cried a number of indignant souls. "Don't they realize Christmas is about a mass of humanity smashing their way into stores the day after Thanksgiving and crushing all competitors underfoot?"

Yes, I guess one could say there is a war on Christmas; it's being waged in the trenches of social media.

Ironically, "social" media has become quite unsocial, if not anti-social: "Happy Holidays? Happy Freaking Holidays? It's Christmas!!! 'Like' this post if you agree to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, or may your bed be filled with the fleas of a thousand Mooses if you fail to paste and post and pass along this Jesus-loving sentiment!"

I would like to offer my services as an Ambassador of Good Will and reflect on this pseudo-war of which I write.

First, Christmas is a Christian holiday. It is recognized for the most part by one billion people. That sounds like a lot of human beings, but there are another six billion or so for whom it does not apply. So while it might be nice to offer a passerby a cheery "Merry Christmas," it would not be inappropriate to wish them an equally cheery "Happy Holidays."

Why? Because there are a bunch of holidays recognized and practiced by people of many faiths around the globe this time of year, and such a pleasant greeting

includes Christmas, without denigrating the faiths of our neighbors.

Secondly, "holiday" is an English word combining (and contracting) "holy day." A holy day is a day set aside. Set aside for what, you ask? It is a day set apart so people can focus on God. So to wish someone a Happy Holiday is a way of inviting them to experience a time of connecting with God – and enjoying the experience. Is that a bad thing?

What happens if we decide not to get worked up into a lather in the Happy-Holiday-Merry-Christmas flap? Will God be upset? I'm talking about the One who sent down a chorus of angels who sang "Peace on Earth, good will to all ..."

I know there are some who have been rebuffed for offering a hearty Merry Christmas to someone who snapped or snarled, finding the greeting offensive or objectionable, but that hardly counts as a "war" and, frankly, says more about them than the well-wisher. It also doesn't mean you can't say "Merry Christmas," or call that tall green thing in your living room a Christmas tree. That's our prerogative; that's our option; that's what the First Amendment allows us to say and do.

Personally, I like using all the tools at my disposal this time of year for offering gentle greetings. If I am talking to known members of a church, I wish them a Merry Christmas; if to strangers and passersby, Happy Holidays. To change it up, I sometimes tender a Feliz Navidad (even if they aren't Hispanic), or Joyeux Noel (even if they aren't French) or God Jul (even if they aren't Swedish).

The point is, it is a season for grace, and the more graceful we can be with one another, the more likely we will obtain the gift of peace that passes all understanding. I suspect that was the purpose behind that first Christmas some 20 centuries ago.

So let's restore the social to our social media and greet one another kindly over these next few weeks. There are some folks who need loving in this, our valley. Mele Kalikimaka.

Keith Axberg writes on matters concerning life and faith. He can be reached at kfaxberg@gmail.com.

NATURAL Resource News

By Ethan Kunard, Madison Conservation District

OH CHRISTMAS TREE

Last weekend, I had the privilege of wandering aimlessly through the forest as I spent hours hunting for the perfect Christmas tree. Though I don't necessarily find the lighting and decorating of a tree all that exciting, I delight in the opportunity to spend time in the woods while I scrutinize every fir and spruce tree in an attempt to find "the one."

Decorating the home with evergreen trees is a tradition that precedes the religious celebration that we often think of today. For instance, people in northern climates have a long history of decorating their homes with pine, spruce and fir boughs to celebrate the winter solstice. These evergreen trees reminded people that the warmer weather and sunshine would



Ethan Kunard

soon return to allow more green plants to grow. Additionally, in some cultures, evergreen boughs were used for decoration as a symbol for eternal life. Eventually, the first evergreen tree was used to celebrate Christmas in Germany during the 16th century, and it wasn't until the late 19th century that the tradition became more widespread throughout the United States.

Today, the evergreen tree has become an iconic symbol of the holiday season. Just as the symbol of the tree has changed over time, the means by which the trees are produced and collected have also transformed greatly. In the United States, the first commercial "Christmas tree" operations began selling trees in the 1850s. Today, 98 percent of real trees displayed during the holidays are grown on commercial farms. Alternatively, though, many people surrounded by public Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management

land have the opportunity to harvest their own trees from the forest.

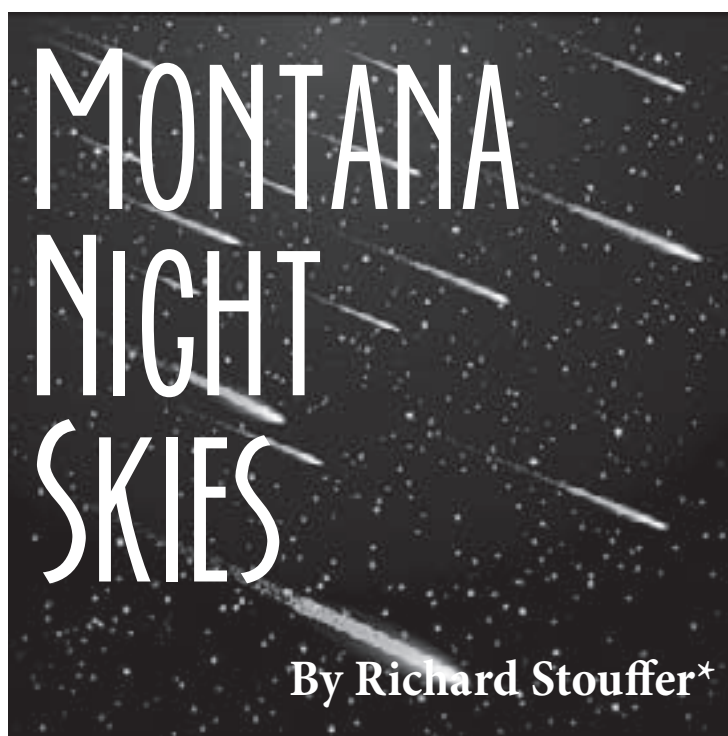
In contrast to the traditional living tree, a fake tree was introduced in 19th century Germany after people developed a growing concern for deforestation. These fake trees were made from dyed goose feathers that were attached with wire to a wooden pole. Today, the esthetics of fake trees have improved, which has made them a much more popular option for many people. Throughout the United States, the number of plastic trees displayed during the holiday season exceed the number of real trees used. In 2010, there were an estimated 50 million fake trees versus roughly 30 million real trees.

For many people, the choice between real trees and fake trees is rooted in tradition and esthetic preference. For some people, however, it's a choice rooted in sustainability. For many years it was believed that fake trees were more sustainable, as they could be reused year after year. However, now that we better understand the impacts of the resources and chemicals used to produce these trees, there is recent popular support for harvesting real trees instead. These live trees, even when planted on commercial farms, provide wildlife habitat and absorb carbon dioxide emissions.

Additionally, real trees can be recycled or repurposed when they're finished serving their purpose. On the downside, however, these 30 million trees that are harvested annually take up an approximate one million acres of land on commercial farms that could potentially be used for other purposes.

For anyone that chooses to select a live tree this holiday season, there are some things you should keep in mind. For instance, placing a highly combustible object in your home, while wrapping it with hundreds of heat-emitting lightbulbs powered by an electrical circuit, can present a potential fire hazard. Be sure your tree has plenty of water and is placed away from any heat sources. Additionally, remember to turn off the lights when you're away from home.

For those of you who can think beyond the potential dangers and environmental criticisms of displaying a real tree in your home this winter, you will be participating in an age-old tradition of celebrating the symbolism of beauty and life during this holiday season. If, however, you decide to put up an imitation tree, you can enjoy the fact that they have really come a long way since the days of dyed goose feathers tied to a wooden pole. Either way, enjoy this holiday season, and take delight in finding that perfect tree.



By Richard Stouffer*

The highlight of the Montana night sky in December is the appearance of three naked eye planets in the evening sky with the most notable highlight being the great shrinkage in distance between Venus and Mars as the month progresses. The morning sky has its own highlight with luminous Jupiter dominating the hours toward morning.

As December begins, Venus, Mars and Mercury shine brightly in the evening sky. As darkness falls, brilliant Venus stands out first well above the southwestern ho-

rizon. As the sky becomes a little darker, look for speedy Mercury well to the lower right of Venus and much closer to the horizon. Far to the upper left of Venus, look for reddish Mars. During the month, the distance between Venus and Mars shrinks dramatically from about a 23-degree separation at the beginning of the month to only about a 12-degree separation as the month and year come to a close. As for Mercury, around Dec. 10, Mercury will be at its highest and at its easiest to find in the evening sky. Venus sets

around three and one-half hours after the sun as the month begins and about four hours after the sun by the end of the month. Mars sets about five hours after the sun throughout the month. Mercury sets about an hour after the sun as the month begins but is lost in the solar glare about halfway through December. Luminous Jupiter dominates the pre-dawn sky, rising about 3 a.m. as the month begins and about 1:30 a.m. as December comes to a close. In the last few days of the year, look for Saturn low in the eastern sky as it rises out of the solar glare in the early morning sky.

For meteor shower watchers, one of the year's best showers, the Geminid Meteor Shower, peaks on the morning of Dec. 14. The shower is almost totally washed out this year by the moon, which is full that same day. To see at least the brightest of the meteors, in the hours between midnight and when the sky first begins to brighten toward dawn, turn with the moon to your back and have a building or trees between you and the moon and look generally straight up. Because of the great number of Geminid meteors that occur during the shower, you should be able to see some of the brightest meteors by taking these steps even

with the moonlit sky caused by the full moon.

As for the moon, the moon passed well above Mercury on Dec. 1 and above Venus on Dec. 3. The moon passed to the lower right of Mars on Dec. 4. The moon is full on Dec. 14, when it will be a Super Moon, which occurs when the moon is at or near its closest approach to Earth when it is full, thus making the moon appear somewhat larger than it does during a normal full moon. The moon passes in front of or occults Aldebaran, the brightest star in the constellation Taurus, about 8:30 p.m. on Dec. 12 with Aldebaran reappearing about an hour later. The moon passes to the lower right of Regulus, the brightest star in the constellation Leo, on Dec. 18. The moon forms a triangle with Jupiter and Spica, the brightest star in the constellation Virgo, on Dec. 23. The moon passes above Saturn on Dec. 27.

The sun sets at its earliest time for the year on Dec. 9 and arrives at the winter solstice at 3:44 a.m. on Dec. 21, the shortest day of the year, when winter begins in the Northern Hemisphere.

* Stouffer is a lifelong amateur astronomer and former member of Delaware Astronomical Society and National Capital Astronomers.

Commodity Insite! Trump Bump and Slump: Part II

by Jerry Welch

Since the night of the presidential election, the only markets to benefit from a Trump Bump, stocks and the United States dollar, rallied sharply remain in relatively good shape. Stocks posted new all-time historic highs again this week with the dollar within a blink of a new, 14 year high. The markets that suffered from a Trump Slump – bonds, gold and most of the world's major currencies – remain in bad shape. Thus, the unfolding tale of the Trump Bump and Trump Slump continues to be told.

However, since my last column, a few other commodity markets are also beginning to suffer a Trump Slump. Wheat prices in Chicago and Kansas City fell to their lowest levels in 10 to 11 years. The three soft or tropical markets that were eagerly sought by speculators in hopes of making a killing were cocoa, coffee and sugar. This week, cocoa hit a three year low while sugar and coffee slumped to a two and one-half month low. In the case of coffee, prices have collapsed in what has turned out to be the largest decline in well over a year. The ranks of markets participating in the Trump Slump is growing!

But there are also doubts growing about the economy and stock market even though it is in

the midst of a historic rally. From USA Today, in a piece entitled, "Trump's turn? Republican presidents rule recessions." And here are the first two paragraphs of that article.

"History could portend a bad omen for President-elect Donald Trump: recessions are more common under Republican presidents."

USA Today goes on to state, "Every Republican president since Teddy Roosevelt in the early 1900s endured a recession in their first term, according to an analysis from Sam Stovall, chief investment strategist at stock research firm CFRA. Four Republican presidents suffered through two recessions while in office and Republican President Dwight Eisenhower presided over three. Meanwhile, Democrats have largely skated past the recession quicksand. Four in five Democratic presidents saw no recessions during their terms since 1945, Stovall says."

How does history play into the current rally with the stock market in light of the information above? Only time will tell. But since history has a strange way of repeating itself and with stocks at an all-time historic high, the coming months will be interesting to watch. Especially interesting because when Donald

Trump was a candidate for president he argued the Fed created an, "artificial stock market" and it was a "bubble."

Here are Trump's exact words, according to CNBC: "Believe me, we are in a bubble right now, and the only thing that looks good is the stock market, but if you raise interest rates even a little bit, that's going to come crashing down. We are in a big, fat, ugly bubble."

After reading Trump's words, keep in mind that the U.S. bond market has been one of the worst performing markets anywhere as U.S. Treasuries slumped to a one-half year low with the global bond market in November having the worst month in history. Bonds have been collapsing because the odds of the Fed hiking rates within the next few weeks is incredibly high. If the Fed does hike rates, will Trump's forecast that, "if you raise interest rates even a little bit," the stock market "is going to come crashing down," come true?

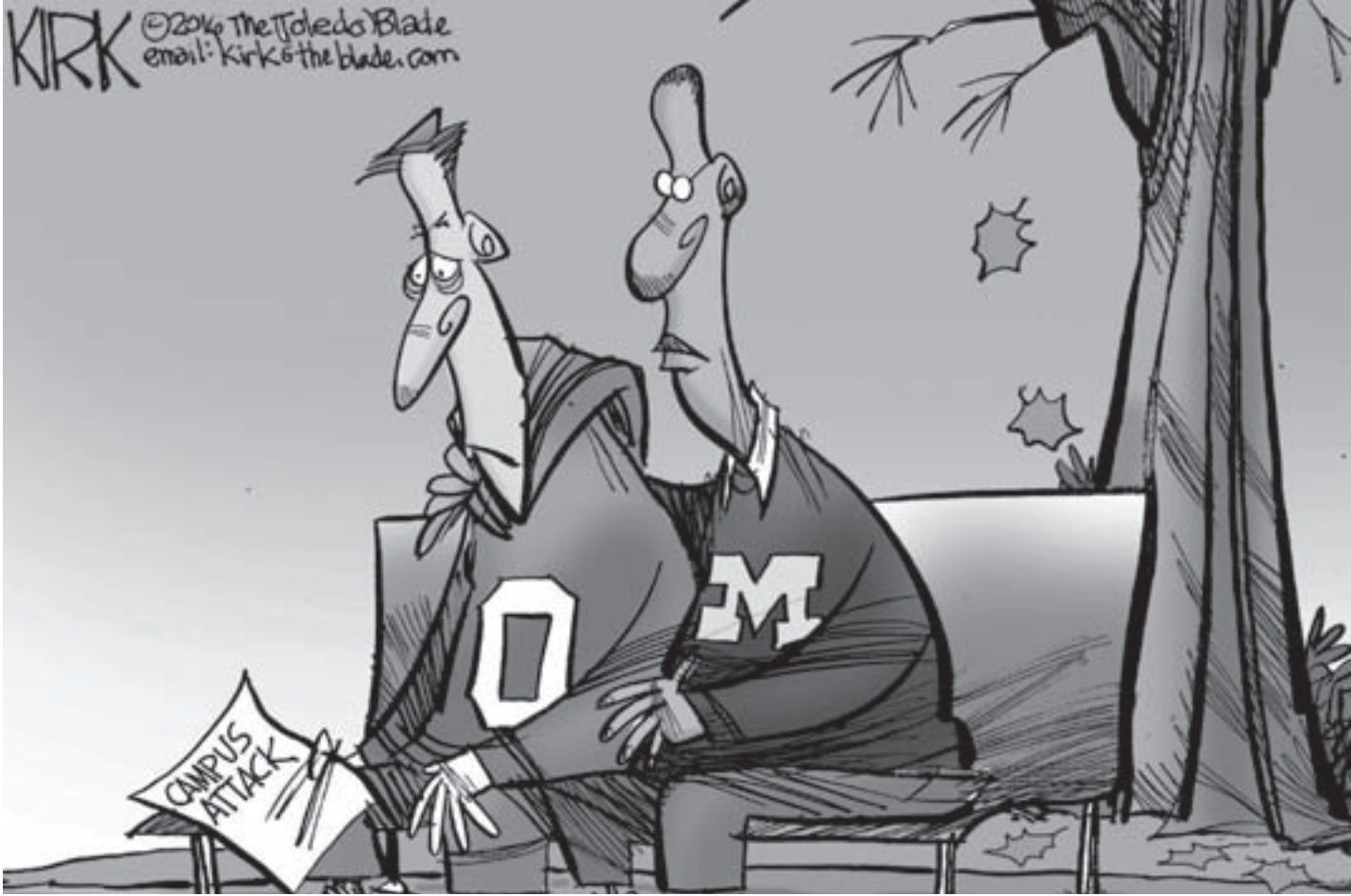
Of course, now that Trump is president-elect, I would bet heavily he will no longer tout a forecast calling for collapsing stock market even though the Fed is on the cusp of hiking rates. In fact, sooner than later I would imagine Mr. Trump will begin back pedaling on

what he said about the stock market being a bubble.

Yours truly, on the other hand, remains in the camp that wants little to do with the long side any market. I stated that clearly in my last column and gave my reasons as well. I wrote: "Based on collapsing bond prices, higher interest rates and an exceptionally strong dollar, investors, traders and agricultural producers may look back on the days following the presidential election and realize the Trump Bump touted loudly by the mainstream media and Wall Street quickly morphed into the Trump Slump."

Late last week, a few cracks did indeed begin to appear in the Trump Bump markets that rallied sharply since election day. The U.S. dollar closed at a three week low and the Nasdaq, the second-largest exchange in the world by market capitalization, fell far below the close of the presidential election day. Certainly, with the dollar doing poorly this week as well as the Nasdaq, it is not a given the Trump Bump has run its course. But it does suggest cracks are showing up which in turn could mean the Trump rally or bump may quickly morph into the Trump Slump.

COMICS & PUZZLES



Editor's Note: Any editorial cartoons printed in our paper do not reflect the opinion of the staff of The Madisonian.

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- 5 U.K. fliers
- 8 Teen's skin woe
- 12 One of the Three Bears
- 13 Conclusion
- 14 TV's Dr. McGraw
- 15 Mideast port
- 16 Wrestling hold
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- 21 High tennis shot
- 22 Jewel
- 23 Jaunty topper
- 26 Samson's weapon against the Philistines
- 30 Altar affirmative
- 31 London forecast
- 32 Hive dweller
- 33 Arid
- 36 Playwright Henrik
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- 43 Plaster-fiberboard mix
- 47 Home entertainment piece
- 49 Vicinity
- 50 Oodles

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- 27 Outdated, as a wd.
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| 8 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 6 |
| 6 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 2 |
| 5 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 8 |
| 9 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 9 |
| 8 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 8 |
| 4 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 6 |

All puzzle answers on B7

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ENNIS, MT 59729

the Madison County MARKETPLACE

HELP WANTED

Part time kitchen help wanted. Please call 406-682-4555. 44-tfc-b

Night time bartender needed at the Silver Dollar Saloon. Please stop by and pick up an application 6-2-b

Madison Valley Medical Center in Ennis, MT is seeking a full-time Medical Collections Specialist. Responsible for establishing systems to monitor denied insurance claims and collect on outstanding patient balances. For more detailed information or to apply online, go to www.mvmedcenter.org/careers or send application letter and resume to MVMC 305 N. Main, Ennis, MT 59729. 3-tfc-b

Services Admin Organized with the ability to multi-task in a fast paced environment, Strong interpersonal, Excellent verbal and written communication skills. send your resume and salary to: entu45@aol.com 6-2-b

Cardwell Store is **NOW HIRING, Part-Time** - Dependable, team oriented, outgoing, cashiers, with exceptional customer service skills. Must be willing to work weekends. Starting wage \$10.00 per hour DOE. Stop in for application or call 406-287-5092. 45-tfc-b

Busy, growing dental office in Ennis is hiring an Office Receptionist. Applicant should be personable and motivated with the ability to multi-task while meeting patient's needs. The primary focus of this position is answering phones and computer work so strong skills in those areas are a must. Dental, finance/accounting and office experience is preferred but not required. We are willing to train the right person to add to our team! Hours are Monday - Friday, approx. 40 hrs/week. Pay negotiable depending on experience. Call 579-2911. 6-2-b

Madison Valley Medical Center in Ennis MT is seeking a controller or Chief Financial Officer, depending on experience. Responsible for all financial and accounting functions, including financial reporting, financial analysis, budgeting, forecasting, accounts payable and payroll. Bachelor's degree in accounting and healthcare experience preferred. For more detailed information or to apply online, go to www.mvmedcenter.org/careers or send application letter and resume to MVMC 305 N. Main, Ennis, MT 59729. Questions, please call 406-682-6862. 6-tfc-b

Place Your Classified 682-7755

Executive Director for Ennis Chamber of Commerce. Send resume to ennischamberjobs@gmail.com. To view job description go to ennischamber.com. 7-3-b

Dishwasher/prep cook, part time, call John at 209-4031. 7-1-b

BARKER VILLAGE APARTMENTS:
1 bedroom unfurnished apartments available in Ennis. A/C, washer/dryer equipped, private location. 1 year lease, \$650 per month plus security deposit, utilities included, non-smoking, no dogs. Call Erich Vogeli, Manager at 406-682-5737. 15-tfc

Senior Citizen Bus Driver - Part-time

Madison County is accepting applications until filled for a Senior Citizen Bus Driver. This is a part-time position working three (3) days per week (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday-approximately 20 hours per week-shifts may vary) to meet the needs of the department. The County provides citizen transportation on a weekly fixed rotating schedule to the following locations: Alder, Bozeman, Butte, Dillion, Ennis, Pony/Harrison, Sheridan, and Twin Bridges. Work Unit Overview: Madison County provides transportation services to county citizens including the elderly and developmentally disabled and handicapped individuals requiring special assistance. The county system may include fixed routes with set schedules, which include door to door service for qualified citizens at flexible times.

Job Summary: The Senior Citizen Bus Driver drives passenger vans, buses, or motor coaches to safely transport county citizens while obeying all traffic laws. This may include transporting the general public, senior citizens and/or developmentally disabled, handicapped individuals on fixed routes with set schedules, coordinate citizens door-to-door service, charters, and/or other specialized trips for various purposes. Hourly Wage: \$11.00 per hour with an increase after a six-month probationary period. Employee Benefit Options: Health insurance, dental, and vision plans • Flexible spending account or Health Savings account available • Montana Public Employee Administration (retirement benefit) and optional 457-b savings plan • Life insurance • Vacation and sick time benefits. Education and Experience: High school diploma or GED required and five (5) years experience in the safe operation of passenger vehicles; or any equivalent combination of experience and training which indicates possession of the knowledge, skills, and abilities listed. Licensure Requirements:

- Current Commercial driver's license with passenger endorsement - referred but not required.
 - Driving record verified by Montana Highway Patrol Request form.
 - Current First Aid and CPR certification and Passenger Assistance or be willing to obtain certification when the class is offered in the area.
- The above information on this description has been designed to indicate the general nature and level of work performed by employees in this position. It is not designed to contain or be interpreted as an exhaustive list of all responsibilities, duties and qualifications required of employees assigned to this job. Interested persons may request a job description and employment application by contacting the Madison County Commissioners' office at 406-843-4277, e-mail at madco@madison.mt.gov, or visit our website at www.madisoncountymt.gov Madison County is an Equal Opportunity Employer and promotes a drug and alcohol-free workplace. Conditional offers of employment are contingent upon successfully passing pre-employment screenings 3-4-b

WANTED

Work Wanted. Handy man. Very experienced in maintenance, wrangling, yard crew, general labor. Experience with variety of tools and equipment. Call 682-4600 6-1-b

FOR RENT

3bd/1bth mobile home for rent in Sheridan. Close to stores. New carpet, fresh paint. W/D hook up. No pets. \$500/month. Water included, utilities not. Call 503-314-3902 or 406-560-3558. 3-4-b

3B/2Bath in Ennis. Available Dec. 15. \$975 per month. 682-4089 7-2-p

BARKER VILLAGE APARTMENTS:
1 bedroom furnished apartments available in Ennis. A/C, washer/dryer equipped, private location. 4 month lease, \$700 per month plus security deposit, utilities included, non-smoking, no dogs. Call Erich Vogeli, Manager at 406-682-5737. 15-tfc

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Indoor & Outdoor RV/Boat storage, storage units. Ennis, 682-7442
18-tfc-b

MADISON MANAGEMENT
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570-5401
www.madisonmanagement.com
22-tfc

FOR SALE

Pioneer Trails and Trials, history of Madison County; 1029 pages of family and community histories, photos. \$450.00; contact rarmf@centurylink.net 5-tfc-b

For Sale. Tonneau Cover. Fits 5 1/2 ft box. Ford F150, other trucks. Excellent condition. 682-3085. 7-1-p

For Sale: Guitars, guitars, guitars. Best prices around, now thru Christmas. Also violin, mandolin, uke, and accessories. Call Jim @ Mountain View TV, 682-7858 5-5-b

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6-4-b

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FOR LEASE

Lease opportunity. Outlaw's Cafe in Virginia City. Call 843-5322 42-tfc-b

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682-7755

SERVICES

Madison Valley Caring & Sharing
Hours:
Mon. Noon-2:00 p.m.
Sat. 9-11:00 a.m.
Wed. 5-7 p.m.
Lone Elk Mall, Unit 4. Ennis.
682-7844
30-tfc-b

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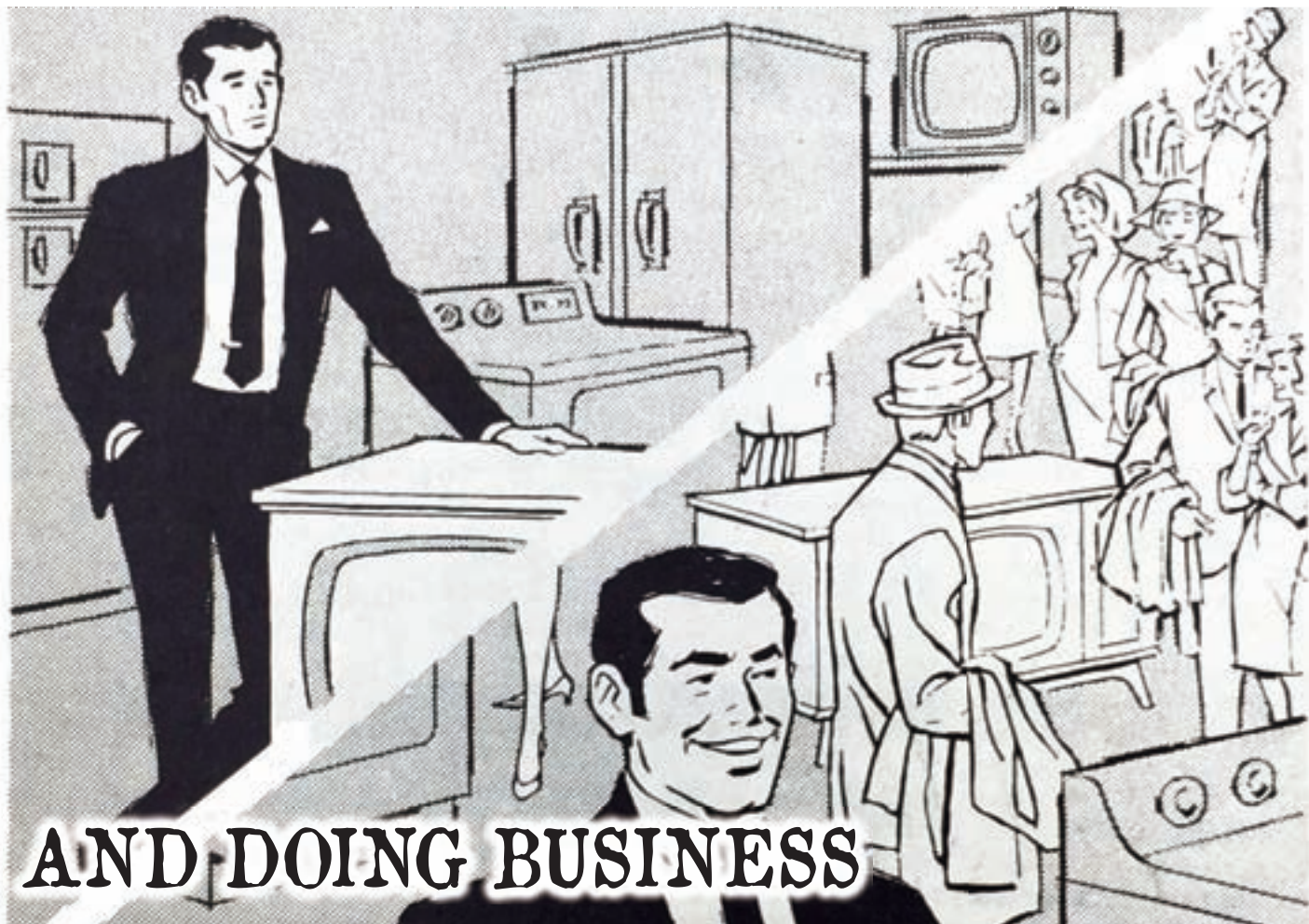
IN FLIGHT



ABIGAIL DENNIS/THE MADISONIAN

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The Madisonian.

PUBLIC NOTICES

FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 8, 2016

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER DEED OF TRUST
Deed of Trust: Dated January 23, 2006
Grantors:
Melvyn L. Sprout
4327 US Hwy. 287 N.
Ennis, MT 59729
Melvyn L. Sprout
PO Box 1031
Ennis, MT 59729
Melvyn L. Sprout
639 Mirza Way
Ennis, MT 59729
Melvyn L. Sprout
c/o Madison Valley Manor
211 Main Street

Ennis, MT 59729
Melvyn L. Sprout
c/o Lorraine Van Ausdold, Guardian
300 N. Willson Ave., Suite 3004
Bozeman, MT 59715
Melvyn L. Sprout
c/o Peter J. Fischer
Fischer Law Office, PC
PO Box 161811
Ennis, MT 59716
Original Trustee:
First Boulder Valley Bank
PO Box 207
Boulder, MT 59632
Original Beneficiary:
First Madison Valley Bank
PO Box 307

Ennis, MT 59829
Successor Trustee:
Jenny M. Jourdonnais
HANSBERRY & JOURDONNAIS, PLLP
3111 Grant Street, Suite B
Missoula MT 59801
Date & Place of
Recordation:
Original recorded 01/27/2006 under Docu-
ment No. 111461, in Book 552 at Page 8,
records of the Clerk & Recorder of Madison
County, Virginia City, Montana.
The undersigned hereby gives notice that on
the 14th day of February, 2017, at the hour
of 10:00 a.m. at the front steps of the Mad-
ison County Courthouse, 110 West Wallace,
Virginia City, Montana, JENNY M. JOUR-

DONNAIS, as Successor Trustee under the
above-described instrument, in order to sat-
isfy the obligation set forth below, has elected
to and will sell at public auction to the highest
bidder, for cash, lawful money of the United
States of America, payable at the time of sale
to the Successor Trustee, the interest of the
above-named Trustee, Successor Trustee and
Grantor, and all of its successors and as-
signs, without warranty or covenant, express
or implied, as to title or possession, in the fol-
lowing described real property:
Lot 6, Block 3 of the Mirza-Norby Addition to
the town of Ennis according to the official plat
thereof on file and of record in the office of the
Madison County Clerk and Recorder in Book
2 of Town Plat, Page 62.
The defaults for which this foreclosure is
made are the failure of the above-named
Grantor, and all of their successors and as-
signs, to pay when due the monthly payments
provided for in the Promissory Note in the
amount of Four Hundred Fifty and No/100
Dollars (\$450.00) for the months of April,
2016 through October, 2016; together with
interest which continues to accrue at the rate
of seven and 25/100 percent (7.25%) per an-
num; together with past due interest in the
amount of One Thousand Seven Hundred
Ninety-Four and 12/100 Dollars (\$1,794.12).
The sum owing on the obligation secured by
the Deed of Trust is the principal balance of
Forty-nine Thousand Two Hundred Twenty-
three and 92/100 Dollars (\$49,223.92), plus
interest thereon at the rate of 7.25% from and
after the 1st day of April, 2016 to September
15, 2016, in the amount of One Thousand
Seven Hundred Ninety-Four and 12/100 Dol-
lars (\$1,794.12), plus per diem interest there-
after at the rate of Nine and 75/100 Dollars
(\$9.75), plus all costs, expenses, attorney's
and trustee's fees as provided by law.
DATED this 5th day of October, 2016.
/s/ Jenny M. Jourdonnais, Successor Trustee
Hansberry & Jourdonnais, PLLP
3111 Grant Street, Ste. B
Missoula MT 59801
STATE OF MONTANA
:ss
County of Missoula
This instrument was acknowledged before
me on the 5th day of October, 2016, by Jenny
M. Jourdonnais, Successor Trustee.
/s/ Susan Marshall
Notary Public for the State of Montana
Commission Expires: March 17, 2019
(Pub. Nov 24, Dec 1, 8 2016) hj
MNXALP

Typical menu items include a meat entrée
with an optional poultry or fish item also be-
ing offered. Potato, vegetable, salad, bread,
and dessert should also be included with the
price of the meal. The Caterer also provides
plates, napkins, and utensils; and if the kitch-
en at the Elks Lodge is needed, the caterer
will be responsible for any user fees plus the
cleaning deposit. Please contact the Com-
missioners' office at 406-843-4277 or email
at madco@madison.mt.gov if you have ques-
tions. Please submit completed bids to the
Madison County Commissioners' Office, P.O.
Box 278, Virginia City, Montana, 59755, by
1:00 p.m. on December 12, 2016.
(Pub. Dec. 1, 8, 2016) mcc
MNXALP

Dated: November 29, 2016
/s/ KEITH G. ALTIMUS
Personal Representative
STATE OF MONTANA)
:ss
COUNTY OF MADISON)
KEITH G. ALTIMUS, being first duly sworn,
upon oath, deposes and says:
That he has read the foregoing NOTICE TO
CREDITORS and that the facts and matters
contained therein are true, correct, accurate
and complete to the best of his knowledge and
belief. I make this declaration under penalty
of perjury under the laws of the State of Montana.
/s/ KEITH G. ALTIMUS
Personal Representative
SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this
29 day of November, 2016.
/s/ Karen McMullin
Notary Public for the State of Montana
Residing at: Ennis, MT
My Commission expires: September 14, 2019
(SEAL)
Personal Representative's Attorney:
Karen McMullin
Post Office Box 55
Ennis, MT 59729
Telephone: (406) 682-7878
(Pub. Dec. 8, 15, 22 2016) km
MNXALP

NOTICE OF COMMISSION MEETING CHANGES:
The Madison County Board of Commissioners
will not be holding their regular Commission
meeting on Monday, December 19, 2016. The
regular meeting for that week will be held on
Wednesday, December 21, 2016, beginning at
9:30 a.m.
The Board will not be holding a regular meet-
ing on December 26, 2016, to observe the
Christmas Holiday. There will be no regular
Commission Meeting that week.
The Board will not be holding a regular Com-
mission meeting on Monday, January 2, 2017,
to observe the New Year's Day Holiday. The
meeting for that week will be held on Tuesday,
January 3, 2017.
(Pub. Dec. 8, 15, 22 2016) mcc
MNXALP

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
IN THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE
STATE OF MONTANA, COUNTY OF MADISON
IN RE ESTATE OF:
KELLY ANN KIVLIN,
Deceased.
Cause No. DP-29-2016-31
That the undersigned has been appointed
Personal Representative of the above-named
estate. All persons having claims against said
decedent are required to present their claims
within four (4) months after the date of the first
publication of this notice, or said claims will be
forever barred.
Claims must either be mailed to KEITH G. AL-
TIMUS, the Personal Representative, return
receipt requested, at P.O. Box 701, Ennis, MT
59729, or filed with the Clerk of the above-
entitled Court.

TOWN OF ENNIS REPRESENTATIVE ON MADISON COUNTY PLANNING BOARD
POSITION
The Town of Ennis is accepting applications
for appointment as the Town representative on
the Madison County Planning Board. The
Planning Board serves in an advisory
capacity on community development issues,
including subdivision plat review and growth
policies. The representative must be a resi-
dent property owner (preferably within the
Ennis planning area) willing to be an active,
prepared participant on the Board. The Plan-
ning Board generally meets the last Monday
of each month.
For more information on the Planning Board,
please contact Charity Fechter, Madison
County Planning Director @ (406) 843-5250
or at the County Planning Office located at
103 W. Wallace St., Virginia City, MT.
Interested persons can submit a letter of ap-
plication to Town of Ennis/Planning @ 328
W. Main St., Ennis, MT 59729 by mail or in
person. The deadline for application is De-
cember 20, 2016 @ 4:00 p.m.
(Pub. Dec. 1, 8, 2016) toe
MNXALP

NOTICE OF BOARD VACANCIES:
The Board of Commissioners has vacancies on
the Mental Health Local Advisory Council
(2 positions), the Planning Board represent-
ing the Pony, Norris, Harrison Area, the
Madison Valley Cemetery Board, the Alder
Rural Fire District Board and the Virginia City
Fire District Board (2 positions). If you are
interested in serving on any of these boards
please contact the Commissioners' Office at
406-843-4277, by email at madco@madison.
mt.gov, or visit our website at www.madison.
mt.gov.
The Madison County Board of Commis-
sioners also has a vacancy on the Big Sky
Transportation District Board, and a vacancy
for a Madison County member on the Big Sky
Meadow Trails, Recreation, and Parks Spe-
cial District Board, ("Members of these two
boards must reside in the respective county
and either own property or reside within the
district boundary from which they are ap-
pointed...").
(Pub. Dec. 1, 8, 2016) mcc
MNXALP

REQUEST FOR CATERING BIDS FOR COURTHOUSE CHRISTMAS PARTY:
Madison County will be accepting bid propo-
sals to prepare and serve a holiday meal for
the County Employees' Christmas party, for
approximately 85-100 people, to be held at
the Elks Lodge in Virginia City, Montana, on
December 30, 2016, beginning at 6:00 p.m.



WE'RE ON THE WEB!
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CHECK US OUT!

to our clients. Throughout the year, we have received food and/or monetary donations from many, many community members as well as from students from both Twin Bridges and Sheridan schools. A big thank to Mike Walter, his family and the Sheridan IGA employees for once again organizing and implementing a very successful four day food drive in early November, as well as a raffle with 50+ prizes that will be completed with a drawing by the end of December. All the prizes were donated by individuals and local companies and all the proceeds from this raffle will go directly to the Food Pantry.
On November 22, Paul Babb of Northwestern Energy presented three Board members with a \$1000 check to the Ruby Valley Food Pantry. This generous gift will help the Food Pantry provide holiday baskets for clients in Silver Star, Twin Bridges, Sheridan, Alder and Virginia City. This donation is greatly appreciated by all the Board members and volunteers who work in our program.
Again, thank you to all who have supported this very needed program.

Thank You!
We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the Ruby Valley community for their generosity throughout this year. Without the strong support from you, the Food Pantry would be unable to provide services

The Ruby Valley Food Pantry

Klasen Septic
WINTER IS COMING!
Need your septic tank pumped NOW?
We're available!
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We also rent portable toilets.
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Hands on care for all your body needs.

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Sore Stressed Muscles
Tension Headaches & Chronic Pain

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220 E. Crofoot, Sheridan, MT 59749-9508
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100 Prairie Way #2 - Ennis, Mt 59729

Ennis Community Choir holiday concerts

SUBMITTED BY KEITH AXBERG
Ennis Community Choir

The Ennis Community Choir performed a variety of Christmas and holiday music this past week at the Assembly of God Church in Ennis and St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Virginia City.

The 18 voice choir was led by Andrew Scruggs, director; Vickey Gordon accompanied on keyboard. Warm and dry weather allowed for good attendance at both venues. The audiences gathered and were treated to a presentation of Appalachian Winter, a stirring cantata containing traditional carols arranged by Joseph M. Martin. Following the cantata, members of the choir performed a variety of solos, duets, instrumentals and other combinations of voice and instruments, delighting the audiences with holiday songs, skits and poetic recitations.

"The quality of our community choir has matured wonderfully over the past few years," noted Scruggs, "and it is a delight to work with them every fall as we get ready for these annual performances."



Ruby Valley Baptist Church
Tony Shaw, Pastor
842-5602

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service 11 a.m.
Sunday Evening 6 p.m.
Wednesday Eve 7 p.m.

One block behind IGA, Sheridan



Find Fellowship With Us

Rocky Mountain Baptist Church
682-4949

Sunday School 9:30 am
Morning Worship 11:00 am
Sunday evening bible study and prayer time, 6 p.m.

606 Comley Way, Ennis

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Dayspring Church
Worship 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School/Nursery
Non-Denominational Christ Centered, Spirit Led Worship
Joel Trenkle/Pastor
Check website for ministries: dayspringsheridan.com

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Between Sheridan & Twin Bridges

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
Sheridan Ward - Visitors Welcome

Sacrament Meeting
Sundays, 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School
11:20 a.m.
R S & Priesthood
12:10 p.m.
Mutual (Youth Group)
Weds. 7:00p.m.

3560 | MT State Hwy 287
Sheridan 842-5860

Bishop Dustin 684-5255

MASS TIMES
St Joseph's in Sheridan
Sat. at 4 pm & Tues&Thurs at 7:30 am
St Mary's in Laurin
Sunday at 8:30 am
St. Patrick's in Ennis
Sunday at 11 am, Weds. at 9 am

Father John Crutchfield • Pastor ~ 842-5588

HARRISON COMMUNITY CHURCH
Harrison, Montana
Adult Bible Study ~ 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School & Church Services ~ 10:30 a.m.
Pastor Joe Miller
Come Worship & Sing Praises To Our God. Spread the Word!

Madison Valley Presbyterian Church
WORSHIP
September - April ~ 11 a.m.
May - August ~ 9 a.m.
Everyone Welcome Fully Accessible

Rev. Jean M. Johnson
682-4355 ~ Ennis
Corner of S. Charles & W. Hugel

DR. RAY TESTON
Pastor
Sunday School ~ 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship ~ 11:00 a.m.

5050 Hwy 287, PO Box 668, Ennis, MT
Phone 682-4244 SBC
MADISON VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH
Aids for the hearing impaired

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
The Church of Word and Sacrament
Visitors Welcome

Pastor Ken Stensrud

- Sunday Service 9:00 am
- Bible Study 10:15 am
- Sunday School 10:15 am

Corner of Madison and Armitage St.
Ennis, Montana 406-684-9200

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
Ennis Branch

Sacrament Meeting
10:00 a.m.
Sunday School
11:20 a.m.
R S & Priesthood
12:10 p.m.

Family History Center
682-4911, 682-7415, 682-3614
Pres. Thompson 682-7415
133 MT Hwy 287

Christian Science Society
Sunday Service & Sunday School 10 a.m.

ALL WELCOME

Each week a Bible lesson full of healing Christian concepts is read aloud in our Sunday service.

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www.ChristianScience.com

NEW BEGINNINGS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
Your Local Assembly of God Church

114 N. Main, Sheridan
842-5845

Pastor Duane Deshner

Sunday Service
10:30 a.m. (Children's Ministry)

Wednesday (Kids/Youth)
6:30-8:00 p.m.

Kid's Club (3 yrs-4th grade)
Pre-Teen Youth Group (5th-6th grade)
Youth Group (7th-12th grade)

Ruby Valley Food Pantry
Saturdays: 10:00 a.m.-Noon

We are a church dedicated to serving this valley!

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Say: no man can attain his true station except through his justice. No power can exist except through unity. No welfare and no well-being can be attained except through consultation.

451-3923 or 1-800-UNITE
www.baha'i.org

ENNIS ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Loving God, Loving People

Sunday School 9:30 AM
Worship Service 10:30 AM
Wednesday Ministries
Kids Club Submerge (K-6) 3:15 PM
Family Dinner 5:30 PM
Youth and Adult Bible Study/Prayer Meeting 6:30 PM

Pastor Greg Ledgerwood
402 Madison Ave - Ennis, MT
682-4197

Madison County Episcopal Churches
In full communion with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Join Us for Sunday Worship!

Trinity Jeffers/Ennis 10 a.m. adult forum 11:00 a.m.
St. Paul's Virginia City Sunday 9:00 a.m.
Christ Church Sheridan Sunday 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 9:00 a.m.

www.rvec.org
Prayer requests: 682-4199 843-5296 842-7713

GRACE COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP
In Association with The Conservative Baptists of America

ALDER SCHOOL
10 am

Christ-centered, Bible Based Teaching
Open Question Forum

Tel. 406-842-5915
Pastor Tom Luksha

AREA SENIOR MEALS

MEALS FOR SENIORS, TWIN BRIDGES

The Twin Bridges Senior and Community Center provides meals for seniors every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at noon at the Twin Bridges Senior and Community Center. Meals are for seniors 60 years and up (spouses and caregivers are invited). Donations for meals are appreciated.

SENIOR MEALS, VIRGINIA CITY

Senior meals for Madison County Seniors 60 and over will be served at the Virginia City Cafe on **Tuesday & Thursdays** from 11 am to 3 pm for \$4.00.

Thursday, December 8: Pork Roast with sauerkraut, carrots, potatoes, roll and dessert
Tuesday, December 13: Fish and Chips, Dessert

RUBY VALLEY FOOD PANTRY, SHERIDAN

Open Saturdays from 10 a.m. - noon. Located at 114 N. Main St. in Valley Assembly (formerly New Beginnings). Serving the Ruby Valley from Silver Star to Virginia City. Contact Doug 842-5587 or Jim 842-5573 for more information.

MEALS ON WHEELS, SHERIDAN

The Sheridan Senior Center offers meals for seniors 60 years and over **Monday - Friday**. Seniors may choose to eat at the senior center, family style for \$3.50 or have their meal delivered for \$4.00. Delivered meals are within the city limits of Sheridan and should be called in by 10 a.m. Call Shirley Sand at 842-5966.

ENNIS MEALS ON WHEELS, ENNIS
Tuesday-Friday 11:45 am to 12:30 pm
Reservations 682-4422

To help us plan, please call at least 24 hours in advance for meal delivery or if you plan to dine in. Ennis Senior center, 315 W Main Street

DECEMBER 8 - DECEMBER 15
THURSDAY DECEMBER 8: PORK CHOP, TWICE BAKED CASSEROLE, VEGGIES, DESSERT
FRIDAY DECEMBER 9: CHICKEN & RICE BAKE, VEGGIES, ROLL, DESSERT
TUESDAY DECEMBER 13: CHICKEN STRIPS, FRIES, FRUIT, DESSERT
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 14: GOULASH, SALAD, GARLIC BREAD, DESSERT
THURSDAY DECEMBER 15: CHICKEN & GRAVY, MASHERS, VEGGIES, BIRTHDAY CAKE

SHOP SPACE FOR RENT IN ENNIS

All sizes available up to 1,200 square feet
Heated, insulated, large doors, half bath.
Gary at 581-3531 or Paul at 581-7878

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— King Crossword —
Answers
Solution time: 25 mins.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
Meeting Every Thurs. at 8 p.m., Church of the Valley, Twin Bridges
ALANON MEETING
Same Time - Same Place

ALANON
Twin Bridges • Church of the Valley
Thursdays, 8 pm

ALANON
Pony School House • Weds. 7 pm
Suzy 685-3692

"Keep it Simple."
A.A. MEETING
Bethany Hall, Sheridan
(behind Methodist Church)
Wednesdays ~ 8 p.m.

Vennis Over The Hill Unity Group
Faced with a drinking problem? Perhaps Alcoholics Anonymous Can Help.
SUazN - 10 a.m., No Smoking, Virginia City Library
MON. - Open, 7:30 p.m., Basement of M.V. Presbyterian Church, No Smoking
WED. - 7:30 p.m., Trinity Church in Jeffers
FRI. - Open, 7:30 p.m., Basement of M.V. Presbyterian Church, No Smoking
682-3490, 682-7023 Ennis
843-5352 Virginia City

Meets every Saturday at 6 p.m. & starts with a meal.


DAYSRING MISSION
3648 Hwy 287, Sheridan
596-0707

Ask the Expert

Local businesses have the information you need to make a variety of decisions. Best of all, they are here and available to meet your needs. In our "Ask the Experts" section, we went to these local experts for information on topics important to you.

Ask the Expert forum appears the second Thursday of each month. If you have questions for these area professionals e-mail us at sales@madisoniannews.com.

HEALTH CARE




Q: What is Post-Concussion Syndrome?

A: Post-Concussion Syndrome (PCS) describes a complex collection of symptoms that develop after a person has had a traumatic brain injury (concussion). Symptoms can last for months or even years. Headache, dizziness, memory loss, attention or sleep difficulties, anxiety, depression, and lack of energy are just a few of the many potential symptoms. The specific source of PCS is not clear and doesn't relate to the severity of the initial injury. Many experts believe that PCS is not caused by brain damage but is triggered by a blow to the head. If symptoms last longer than a month after the initial injury or diagnosis of concussion, see a healthcare professional and bring a list of symptoms, medications and vitamins. It is also recommended that you bring a friend or family member who can provide additional information regarding symptoms and circumstances of the concussion. Evaluation is essential and a specialized physical therapy program is frequently prescribed.

Drew Chambers, PA-C
RUBY VALLEY CLINICS
 SHERIDAN 842-5056 • TWIN BRIDGES 684-5546

BIRDING




Q: How important is water for birds in winter?

A: Providing an open source of water in winter is an important component of bird feeding. Most people realize the importance of water when it's hot and dry, but it's equally important in winter. In spite of freezing temperatures, birds still frequent birdbaths-both to drink and to bathe. Birds instinctively know that in order to keep their feathers in good condition, it is necessary to bath, even in winter. Bird feathers serve the ability to fly but, more importantly, in winter, it is critical that feathers provide insulation from cold temperatures and maintain their body temperature. Clean feathers provide greater insulation compared to matted feathers. Your bird bath needs to keep the water open and ice-free. Good quality bird baths have a built-in thermostat that regulates the water temperature. There are many different models, and like most things in life, the better the quality the better the price. The primary difference is wattage and warranty. Having a heated birdbath on cold, icy, or snowy mornings allows you to stay indoors instead of risking slipping or falling in an effort to put hot water in your frozen birdbath.

Debi Naccarto, Owner
WILD BIRDS UNLIMITED • 406-219-2066

FITNESS




Q: What are Some Bad Habits That Can Counteract my Workout?

A: 1) Working out on an empty stomach. Eat 45-60 minutes before a workout for best performance (bananas, berries, low-fat yogurt). 2) Skipping stretching. Warm up for 5-10 minutes then do a series of dynamic (moving) stretches before your workout. 3) Avoiding strength training. Lifting weights helps boost your fat-burning potential, helps with balance and keeps bones & muscles healthy. 4) Getting stuck in a rut. Change up your routine to "shock" your body. 5) Being nervous about working out too hard. Train at 85% of your target heart rate consistently. Target heart rate for men: 226-age. For women 220-age. 6) Not knowing limits. Use proper form, take care of your injuries, modify if needed.

Madison Square Athletic Club
 406-682-4560

PHYSICAL THERAPY




Q: Why do we lose our balance as we age?

A: Balance is standing/wading in the river, getting out of a chair or moving from one place to another without falling. Balance requires strength (muscle) to move. Movement requires a sense of position, our nerves. Together strength with awareness, ie nerves equals balance. Muscles, tendons and nerves change at about age 60. Nerves are spider like webs that connect what we feel and help us react to the world. These wires(nerves) shrink/retract from their muscles that move us every day. Muscles without good wiring get smaller and weaker. Falling can cause increased weakness pain and seriousness of any injury. Exercise proven in research is the fountain of youth. Proper exercise, balance and strength training prescribed by Robert "Bob" Sahli PT ATC LAT will improve your over health. An individualized, balance and strength program by the Only Experienced, Licensed Physical Therapist/ Nationally Certified Athletic Trainer in the Madison valley.

Robert (Bob) Sahli, PTATCLAT
ENNIS PHYSICAL THERAPY PC • 406-682-3112

EYE CARE




Q: I just started a new job. I will mostly be at a computer all day, but I also have to spend time in the shop where there are a lot of wood and metal particles, how can I protect my eyes?

A: There are several easy ways to protect your eyes while at work. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health reports about 2,000 U.S. workers sustain job-related eye injuries each day. Safety experts and eye doctors believe the right eye protection could prevent 90% of these. Always eliminate hazards prior to starting, know the dangers, and use proper eye protection that is correctly fitted. Additionally, according to the American Optometric Association, nearly half of all Americans spend five or more hours per day using a computer or PDA. Prolonged use of electronic devices may lead to eye strain, dry eyes, fatigue, headaches, blurred vision and loss of focus. Protect your eyes by following these simple recommendations: at least every 20 min, take a 20-second break and look at something 20 feet away. Sit about 25 inches away, and adjust font size, screen intensity and resolution to comfortable levels. Protecting your eye health and safety while at work is simple but important.

Dr. Jeff Squire
EYES ON MAIN • 406-577-2380

INSURANCE




Q: What makes landlord insurance different from homeowners insurance?

A: At the 10,000 foot view, the major difference between a landlord policy and a homeowner policy is that a landlord policy does not contain personal property coverage, (coverage for your stuff), on the standard policy. This is just one of the major differences in the homeowners and landlord policies: loss of use, and separate structure coverage's can be simply a percentage of the dwelling amount, and are not priced separately, but included in the dwelling coverage premium. They are usually adequate, but if not, can and should be adjusted. One would think that because the standard homeowners policy would be higher than a Landlord policy. But do not be surprised if the landlord policy is as much, or even higher than a homeowners policy would be, because the increased exposure and need for higher Liability limits. Call us to discuss all of the difference's and to make sure you are insured properly.

Ty Moline, Agent, CISR
THE AGENCY INSURANCE DIVISION • 406-682-4202

MENTAL HEALTH




Q: What Is Schizophrenia?

A: Schizophrenia is a brain disease that interferes with normal brain activity. It causes affected people to exhibit odd behaviors, and may result some combination of delusions, hallucinations, and disordered thinking and behavior. Schizophrenia is a chronic condition, most always involving lifelong treatment to include strictly following doctors' orders and being faithful in taking prescribed medications. Is Schizophrenia Defined as Multiple Personalities? General information would have you believe that schizophrenia is multiple personalities or a split personality. However, even though schizophrenia is defined as "split mind", the definition actually refers to a disruption of the regular balance of thinking and emotions, as well as an inability to tell the difference between what is real and what is not real. If you have concerns and would like to talk to someone, please call Lisa at (406) 670-4546.

Lisa Brubaker, LCSW
 (406) 670-4546

REAL ESTATE



Q: What is the scoop on this year's STATs?

A: The STATs are coming – The STATs are coming! We are always inundated at the year's end as statistics bombard us from every direction. Realtors are no exception as we look to see how the market compared to last year. It helps all of us recognize a "good buy" and also helps us make the decision, "is it time to sell?". As you educate yourselves this year be sure to ask for the source and the filters put on those stats. If I pull "Residential Sales" in 7MM (the Madison Valley) then I would tell you that the "average house sells for \$324,479 (pulled straight off of the MLS Stats), yet truth be told, In Town Homes averaged \$192,106 (up 15% from 2015) and Out of Town Homes averaged \$418,471 (stable from 2015). Talk to your favorite REALTOR, give them your filters, and be educated as to the current real estate trends!

Dot Merrill, Sales Associate
BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY • (406) 570-9067

YOUR EXPERTISE



Q: A question frequently asked by your customers.

A: Sell your service, your business or your product! This is your opportunity to provide your current and future customers with accurate, valuable information about your business. Something new about your business you would like to promote? This is a great way to do accomplish that, too. Don't miss your chance to secure this platform for your area of expertise.

Call 682-7755
 or email sales@madisoniannews.com
 to reserve this space!

Your Name, Your Title
YOUR BUSINESS NAME • XXX-XXX-XXXX

Ask the Expert

Be the expert in YOUR industry...
 Call now to reserve your spot.
 Contact Rachel Anderson at 406.682.7755 or sales@madisoniannews.com
 The Madisonian.

Harrison students learn to brain tan with OWLs

SUBMITTED BY THOMAS ELPEL
Outdoor Wilderness Living School

The seventh and eighth graders from Harrison School went to river camp near Cardwell two weeks ago for a day of hide tanning work, hosted by Outdoor Wilderness Living School.

PHOTOS COURTESY THOMAS ELPEL

RIGHT: Jackson Nye scrapes a hide using a drawknife. In the background of the picture, you can see several people supervising while others scrape. Each student took a turn at the handles of the drawknife.

BELOW: Harrison eighth grader Billy Walker wrings out a hide. He twists the rolled up hide with a sturdy stick to rid the hide of fluids. While applying downward pressure, he slowly walks around to increase the force on the hide. Walker keeps a firm grip on the stick so it does not fly back and hit him. After he wrings the hide out one way, he slowly untwists it. He will then repeat this process in the opposite direction until there is very little fluid left in the hide. This procedure prepares the hide for stretching.



Madison Wranglers volunteer in community

SUBMITTED BY STACY CROY
Madison Wranglers 4-H Club

The 4-H club, the Madison Wranglers, volunteered as part of their community service to help the Madison Valley Medical Center make angels for their tree of life, which stands in the medical center lobby.

Dottie Fossel, chairman of the MVMC board of trustees and an auxiliary member, hung an angel on the tree in honor of the Madison Wranglers' involvement.

The 4-H youth group, led by Stacy Croy for 10 years, has done many community projects over that time. At the Christmas stroll, they create the nativity scene at Frist Madison Valley Bank. All year, they participate in community highway clean up, pick up garbage at the rodeo grounds, shovel snow off sidewalks for people in need, participate in food drives for the food bank and much more.



Thank You.

The Madison Valley Manor Auxiliary members are some of the finest volunteers in our great community. The Auxiliary has supported the Manor since 1978 and while faces may change as new people join, their mission never waivers. The Auxiliary has blessed the residents with a Christmas store every year. This allows the residents to pick out gift items for their family and friends at no cost. The gifts are donated and collected by the Auxiliary members. They have a birthday party to celebrate resident birthdays every month with the Tune Tangles providing music. The Auxiliary has an annual fund raiser and these funds are used to purchase items for the residents. A New Step recumbent bike in the Rehab room, big screen tv in the sunroom, and a blanket warmer to name but a few. They also give of their time every week spreading love, cheer, and companionship to the residents at the Manor.

The residents and staff at the Madison Valley Manor want to thank all of you for what you do so unconditionally. If you would like to join this wonderful organization or know of someone who may be interested please have them contact Cherrie at 406-682-5409.



KIDS 'N' SNOW
WEST YELLOWSTONE-MT

Enjoy a special weekend in West Yellowstone, MT filled full of fun, free activities for kids (parents and grandparents too!)
December 17-18, 2016
featuring the Annual Rodeo Run Sled Dog Races

WWW.KIDSNOW.ORG MONTANA TBID SUPPORT West Yellowstone Businesses

LOCAL SUBCONTRACTORS

Langlas and Associates the Construction Manager for the Ruby Valley Hospital would like to invite all subcontractors and community members to a workshop to discuss the Ruby Valley Hospital Project. This meeting will be held at the Philanthropy Building at 120 S. Main St. in Sheridan, MT. Tuesday December 20, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. This meeting is not mandatory.

This workshop will review the upcoming bid process and project scope. This is an opportunity for the local community to understand the bidding requirements, schedule, and ask questions before the bid. The bid date is January 10, 2016. The project will not start construction until late February of 2017.

For further information, please contact Roger Davis at 406-585-3420 or email rdavis@langlas.com

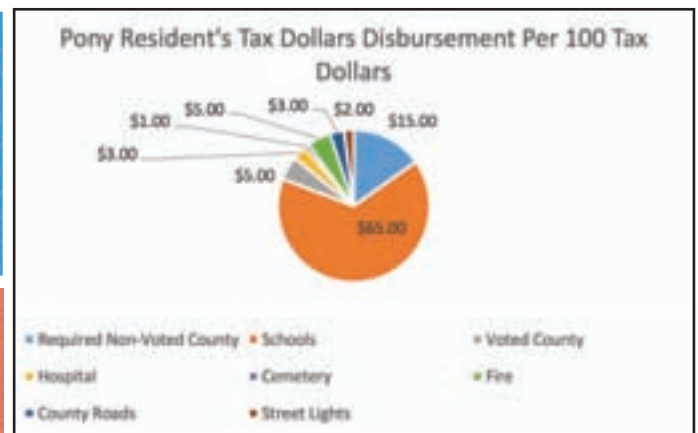
Pony Resident's Tax Dollars Disbursement Per 100 Tax Dollars

| Required/Non-Voted County | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| General | \$ 11.10 |
| Permissive Levy | \$ 1.85 |
| Bridge | \$ 0.45 |
| Weed | \$ 0.45 |
| Fair | \$ 0.30 |
| Airport | \$ 0.45 |
| District Court | \$ 0.30 |
| Library | \$ 0.30 |
| Planning | \$ 0.30 |
| Required Non-Voted County | \$ 15.00 |

| Schools | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| County Equalization | \$ 11.70 |
| County Retirement | \$ 2.50 |
| County Transportation | \$ 0.10 |
| State Equalization | \$ 8.45 |
| State University | \$ 1.30 |
| Alder School District | \$ 40.95 |
| Schools | \$ 65.00 |

| Voted County | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| MadCo Nursing Home | \$ 3.45 |
| Weed | \$ 0.30 |
| Library | \$ 0.30 |
| Public Health | \$ 0.30 |
| Search and Rescue | \$ 0.25 |
| Senior Citizens | \$ 0.40 |
| Voted County | \$ 5.00 |

| Hospital | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Mad. Valley Hospital | \$ 3.00 |
| Hospital | \$ 3.00 |



| | |
|------------------|---------|
| Cemetery | \$ 1.00 |
| Pioneer Cemetery | \$ 1.00 |
| Cemetery | \$ 1.00 |
| Fire | \$ 5.00 |
| Fire | \$ 5.00 |
| County Roads | \$ 3.00 |
| County Roads | \$ 3.00 |
| County Roads | \$ 3.00 |
| Street Lights | \$ 2.00 |
| Street Lights | \$ 2.00 |
| Street Lights | \$ 2.00 |

All tax collection procedures can be found in Montana Code Annotated Title 15 and tax information for Madison County can be found on the county's website. www.madisoncountymt.gov under the Treasurer/Taxes page.

OUTPOSTEVENTS.NET

B10 Thursday, December 8, 2016

GO TO outpostevents.net FOR A COMPLETE LISTING OF EVENTS

THURSDAY DECEMBER 8

Holiday concert, Twin Bridges

High School and Middle School holiday concert featuring band and choir students from Twin Bridges in the auditorium at 7 p.m.

Meeting, Dillon
Floodplain Discovery meeting to give a background on the project and get feedback from stakeholders on flood related concerns for the community at 6 p.m. at the USDA Dillon Service Center. Channel Migration

public meeting to see a presentation of the draft Beaverhead River Channel Migration Map follows at 7 p.m.

FRIDAY DECEMBER 9

Christmas stroll, Twin Bridges

Enjoy the community Christmas stroll at the Madison County Fairgrounds with food, music and fun. Begins at 5 p.m.

Holiday craft festival, Twin Bridges

Check out the crafts in the Jeffers Building at the Madison County Fairgrounds before the

Christmas stroll! Lots of vendors and door prizes! Begins at 1 p.m.

DECEMBER 9 - 10

Splendid Feast, Virginia City

Join the Elling House Arts and Humanities Center for their annual Splendid Feast Dec. 9 and 10 at 6:30 p.m. for food, live music and camaraderie. Call 8473-5454 for more information.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 10

Concert, Dillon
Ruby Range and friends holiday concert and sing along at 1 p.m. at the Depot Theater.

Veteran served Christmas dinner from 5-7 p.m. at the school cafeteria with a raffle to follow.

Skate with Santa, Virginia City

Join Santa and his elves at the Virginia City skate rink for an afternoon of skating, refreshments, food, fun and gifts for all from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

RALPH HAMLER
LICENSED SANITARIAN
Septic Application & Design
406-842-5788
Cell: 406-596-0437
Sheridan, MT
ralphhamler@gmail.com

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

MONDAYS

Commissioner's Meeting, Virginia City
Madison Co. Commissioners meet every Monday, 9:30 a.m., Annex Building

KnitNite, Ennis
Meets at Right Angles Framing and Gallery from 5-7 p.m. the first and third Monday of the month.

Bridge, Ennis
Every Monday at 11:30 at the First Madison Valley Bank. New players welcome.

TUESDAYS

Madison County Mental Health Local Advisory Council, Virginia City
Meeting the first Tuesday of each month from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Ennis Arts Association, Ennis
Meet on the second Tuesday of every month at 10:30 a.m. ennisartsassociation.org

Children's Story & Craft Time for babies, Virginia City
Every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. at the Thompson Hickman Library.

Movie Night, Virginia City
Movie Night at the Thompson-Hickman Madison County Library
Every other Tuesday night at 7:00 p.m.

Open Table Tennis, Pony 7 - 9 p.m.
For all ages and skill levels - Two Tables At the Pony School Info @ 685-3481

WEDNESDAYS

Tennis, Ennis
9 a.m. til 2p.m., come play tennis at the Madison Meadows Golf Course. All levels welcome.

Open Sew, Ennis
Open Sew with the Quilt Guild- open to the public from 2-5pm at Madison Valley Public Library

TOPS, Ennis
Weekly weigh-ins are at 9 a.m.

Meetings at 9:30 a.m. MVMC in downstairs conference room. Jeanne, 682-3299

Books and Babies, Ennis
Madison Valley Public Library, 10:30 a.m., 682-7244

Baby Bistro, Ennis
First and third Wednesday of the month at the Madison Valley Public Library and 11 a.m.

Grief Support Group, Ennis
Everyone welcome. Meets every Wednesday, 5:30 p.m., Madison Valley Baptist Church

Yoga, Virginia City
Gentle yoga with Andrea Frederick at 6 p.m. at the library. Call to confirm.

THURSDAYS

MV Women's Club FIRST THURS OF EA. MONTH
NO meetings June, July or August.

MV Manor Auxiliary Meeting, Ennis SECOND THURS OF EA. MONTH
1 p.m., Madison Valley Manor SunRoom

Shape up, Ennis
Workout for seniors focusing on stretching and toning at the athletic club at 9 a.m.

FRIDAYS

Tennis, Ennis
9 a.m. til 2p.m., come play tennis at the Madison Meadows Golf Course. All levels welcome.

Story Time, Ennis
Pre-K to Grade 2, 11 a.m. Madison Valley Public Library, 682-7244.

Live Music, Ennis
Willie's Distillery hosts live music in the tasting room, 5:30 p.m.. See the weekly ad on this page for performers.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY-SUNDAY

Live Music - Norris
7 p.m.

MONDAY DECEMBER 12

Concert, Ennis
Ennis Schools K-5 program will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the high school gym.

TUESDAY DECEMBER 13

Meeting, Sheridan
Anderson-Simpson Post 89 will hold its December meeting at 6 p.m. in the Post building.

Concert, Ennis
Ennis Schools 6-12 program will begin at 7 p.m. in the high school gym.

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 14

Presentation, Ennis
Madison River channel migration map presentation at the elementary cafeteria at 4:30 p.m. Call 682-3181 for more information.

THURSDAY DECEMBER 15

Holiday concert, Twin Bridges
The Twin Bridges Elementary Students invite our community to our holiday concert in the auditorium at 6:30 p.m.

Mad Gals, Bozeman
Mad Gals Christmas at Riverside Country Club at 12:30 p.m. Bring a gift to exchange and your holiday spirit.

FRIDAY DECEMBER 16

Steak feed, Ennis
Come support the Ennis High School's clubs at the 16th annual steak feed held in the lobby during the basketball games from 4-7 p.m. For more information call 682-4258.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 17

Dinner, Twin Bridges

BLUE MOON SALOON
Cameron, Montana
LIVE MUSIC & DANCE
FOOL'S GOLD
December 17
9 pm
3793 US Hwy 287 N
Cameron, MT | 682-4555

Modern Design in Madison County
406 209 8330
ENSITIC
ARCHITECTURE

BLUE MOON SALOON
Cameron, Montana
WINTER HOURS
Closed Monday and Tuesday
Open from 4-close on Wednesday - Sunday
Closed 12/24 and 12/25
3793 US Hwy 287 N
Cameron, MT | 682-4555

NORRIS HOT SPRINGS
MUSIC THIS WEEKEND:
Fri 129 Shea Stewart
100 Country Blues / Americana
Sat 12/10 Neil Flo Pedlow
Original Blue Rock
Sun 12/11 Tom Catmull
Original and Blues / Americana
HOURS:
FALL HOURS
Thurs-Fri-Mon 4-10
Sat & Sun 10-10
norrishotsprings.com
406 595 3303

CONTINENTAL CONSTRUCTION
Continental Construction is currently looking for **Painter/Cabinet Finishers** Skilled in lacquer and other finishes. Full benefit package EOE/DFW
Email: sw060608@gmail.com or Fax 406-624-0684

Christensen Rentals
Landscape • Lawn & Garden Home Improvement & Construction
Rototillers, Power Rakes & Aerators Backhoe, Skidsteer & Mini Excavator
Ask about the weekend rate - pick up on Saturday by noon and return Monday morning for a 1 day rate!
Call for availability!
Fall Hours: Mon-Fri. 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Saturdays 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
406-682-4748 - 201 MADISON - ENNIS, MT

GRAHAM DRILLING
SHERIDAN, MT
Water Well Drilling, Solar Pump Systems for Stock Water, Pump Sales Installation, Service & Repairs
Serving Residential & Commercial Customers in Madison County for over 30 years
QUALITY SERVICE AT A FAIR PRICE
Phone (406) 842-5214 or (406)682-5290
WWW.GRAHAMDRILLING.COM

MADISON THEATRE 682-4023
115 Main St., Ennis, MT
Friday, December 9 - Sunday, December 11, 2016
HACKSAW RIDGE (R)
Friday & Saturday 7:15 pm Matinee Sunday 4:00 pm
COMING SOON:
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM (PG-13), MOANA (PG)
Evenings: Adults \$5 • Children (12 & under) \$3 Show time at 7:15 pm
Box Office opens at 6:30 pm
Find us on at MadisonTheatreEnnis
www.ennismovies.com
CLOSED CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY

WILLIE'S DISTILLERY
ENNIS, MONTANA
WILLIE'S DISTILLERY UPCOMING EVENTS:
82 E MAIN STREET, ENNIS 406-842-4017
WWW.WILLIESDISTILLERY.COM
LIVE MUSIC EVERY FRIDAY 5:30 - 7:30 PM
COME JOIN THE FUN, LISTEN TO SOME GREAT MUSIC AND ENJOY SPIRITS WITH A WESTERN FLAVOR!
FRIDAY DEC 9TH: DAVE HORTON
FRIDAY DEC 16TH: ED & KATIE COYLE
FRIDAY DEC 23RD: STEVE INGRAM
FRIDAY DEC 30TH: RUBY VALLEY BOYS
FRIDAY JAN 6TH: FAN MOUNTAIN FROG DOGS
FRIDAY JAN 13TH: UNFORTUNATE COOKIES
ASK ABOUT OUR WEEKLY BOTTLING PARTIES