

### Southwest Montana in 1928

February 2nd, 1865 was the date of Madison County's creation and Virginia City was made the County Seat. As of January 1st, 1928 the estimated county population was 6,058 and the land area was 2,590 square miles. Surrounded and divided by mountain ranges from 8,000 to 11,000 feet high, Madison County is composed of two parallel valleys, the Madison and the Ruby. The valley floors are from 4,000 to 6,000 feet elevation. The valleys that were irrigated produced unusually high yields of hay, grain, potatoes, and other vegetables. Dairying and poultry raising were also successful.

Surface and Soil: The soils of the valleys range from a heavy clay to a sandy loam with some gravelly streaks. Most of it is well adapted to agriculture and some is to be a drainage field. The bench lands bordering the valley floors are composed of a clay loam shot with gravel or coarse sand.

**Crops:** The principal crops were and are alfalfa hay,oats, wheat, barley, potatoes, and vegetables. Seed peas were once an important crop in the Ruby Valley, which was one of the best producing sections in the state. The valley also grew premium quality oat and wheat crops.

Drainage and Water Supply: Irrigation water comes from the Madison, Beaverhead, Big Hole and Jefferson Rivers besides numerous large mountain streams. All ditches were owned by farmers with no government developed projects.

Industries: Other industries in addition to agriculture consist of mining and, to a small degree, lumbering. The Montana Power Company had one of its largest power plants on the Mad1son River near McAllister.

**Minerals:** Mining resources were large with numerous small mines in operation and some were developing into plants employing up to 40 men, while every gulch seems to contain mineral claims.

Timber: Timber areas were located mostly in the Madison National Forest reserve and held excellent timber for milling purposes. Land Values: The price of land ranged from \$5 an acre for grazing land to \$150 an acre for some small diversified farms under irriga tion. Generally speaking land values were low compared to other sections in the Northwest.

**Transportation and Highways:** The Northern Pacific Railroad ran a branch line up each of tho two valleys from their main line at Whitehall. The Yellowstone Trail ran across the northern end of the county and the Vigilante Trail ran from Butte through the county lengthwise to Yellowstone Park. Roads generally in the county were above average. The railroads had two auto stage lines. One in Sheridan that went on to Ennis or on to Twin to get to Butte. The other auto stage line was in Twin Bridges that went over to Dillon or over to Whitehall.

Education: The Nine high schools in Madison County were as follows: Virginia City, Sheridan, Twin Bridges, Ennis, Norris, Pony and Harrison and included Whitehall and Cardwell which were joint with Madison and Jefferson counties. The number of school districts were 65 and the total count for all schools were 1110 pupils enrolled in 1928. The State Orphans' Home was located at Twin Bridges and was in operation and had it's own school.

**Recreation:** Madison county was and is still an ideal locality for hunters and fishermen, the Madison River being considered the best fishing stream in the northwest. In this stream was a great variety of fish like: the rainbow, native steel-head, lochleven, and dolly varden trout, eastern brook trout and some Montana gray ling. This river heads to Yellowstone National Park, flowing through the entire length of the Madison Valley, passing through the lower Madison Reservoir, before it enters the lower Madison canyon. On the west shore of this reservoir was a government fish hatchery, which did excellent work keeping the lakes and streams of Madison county well stocked with all varieties of fish. In the Madison Range are deer, elk, mountain sheep, bear and small game. One can go in at Jack Creek and come out at the upper Madison Canyon, and be during this time in one of the best hunting countries in Montana. The Gravelly Range has elk, deer, mountain sheep and bear and farther south you run into the upper and lower Red Rock Lakes, where ideal waterfowl shooting can be had.

**Cities and Towns:** Twin Bridges and Sheridan were the largest towns in the county, having a population of approximately 650 each. Other towns are Virginia City, Cameron Ennis, Jeffers, McAllister, Pony, Harrison and Jefferson Island, all are located in the Madison Valley. In the Ruby Valley the towns consists of Waterloo, Silver Star, Twin Bridges, Sheridan, Laurin, Alder and Virginia City. **Climate:** The climate is very equable with a large per cent of sunshiny days. Snow seldom covered the valley floors more than four inches deep and often there Is none, while the mountains receive and hold heavy snow falls which supply water for Irrigation. Precipitation averaged around 11 Inches during the year in the valleys, most of it coming during the growing season.

**Crop Production:** In the production of tame hay Madison county placed tenth. Total production of all crops was valued at \$1.683,822, divided as follows: Spring wheat 9,000 acres, acre yield 28, production 252,000 bushels, value \$244.,440; winter wheat 6,000 acres, acre yield 20, production 100,000 bushels, value \$92,000; all wheat 14,000 acres, acre yield 25.1, production 852,000 bushels, value \$336,440; oats 7,000 acres, acre yield 41, production 287,000 bushels, value \$126,280; barley 2,200 acres, acre yield 48, production 105,600 bushels, value \$63.860; rye 1,800 acres acre, yield 28. production 36,400 bushels, value \$26,672; flaxseed 100 acres, acre yield 12, production 1.200 bushels, value \$2,100; corn 1,000 acres, acre yield 22, production 22,000 bushels, value \$16,840; potatoes 900 acres, acre yield 120, production 108,000 bushels, value \$7,980; acre yield 120, production 108,000 bushels, value \$7,980; alfalfa seed 26 acres, acre yield 2.41, production 60 bushels, value \$780; all tame hay 50,000 acres, acre yield 1.7, production 85,000 tons, value \$714,000; wild hay \$28,400 acres, acre yield 1.0, production 28,400 tons, value \$213,000; apples \$1,170; truck crops and vegetables \$4,500; miscellaneous fruits \$1,100.

Livestock: The value of livestock products marketed In 1927 totaled \$1,255,400. Combined crops and livestock were valued at \$2.838.722

Value of industries: The estimated value of manufacturing was \$74,000. Madison county placed ninth in metal mining with a value at \$125.000.

Lumbering totaled \$70,680 (Includes value of lumber cut only; value added by manufacture not included), and tourist \$150,000. **Total and Per Capita Production:** The total production for the county was valued at \$8,268,402 and per capita for 1927. The assessed valuation of all property in the county In 1927 was \$17,768,727. Real estate and Improvements were valued at \$11,190,000.

Taxes for all general purposes averaged 12.4 cents an acre on farm and grazing lands. 40.1 cents a head on horses, 61.8 cents a head on cattle and 16.1 cents a head on sheep.

Madison's net debt was reduced from \$132,697.05 In 1924 to \$105,988.80 June 30, 1927. During the same three-year period, net indebtedness of school districts decreased slightly. Such debt totaling \$134,668.60 June 30, 1927, as compared with \$140,137.47 in 1924. The per capita net debt for county and school purposes on June 30, 1927, was \$32.10, a little more than half the average throughout the state, The county agent was located in Twin Bridges, Montana.

**GRIEF SHARE SUPPORT GROUP -** We offer help and encouragement after the death of a loved one. GriefShare will begin meeting on Mondays at 6:30 pm in the Twin Bridges Library starting February 5th. GriefShare will also be offered Tuesdays at 1 pm at the Valley Assembly starting February 6th. Our first week, we will be showing "The Loss of a Spouse". Then the following week, we will start our 13 week series. Questions, please contact Kathleen. Cell number is 406-596-1080

SHERIDAN SENIOR CENTER GAME NIGHT - April 11th - May 9th - from 6-9 pm - see ad

7TH ANNUAL LEPRECHAUN DASH - March 23rd Registration at 11 am - See Ad

ROTARY CLUB OF THE RUBY VALLEY - Casino Night - March 23rd - 6 pm - See Ad

BRUNCH & BINGO - VC ELKS LODGE - Sundays - Now to March 24th - 10-11 am - Brunch 11 am to 12 pm

JACKSON'S GARDEN - Pruning Tree & Shrubs Class - March 27th - 12-2 pm - See Ad

ELLIE POTTERY CLASS - Tuesdays from 5:30 to 7:30 at CB Murray Building Art Room

TOWN OF SHERIDAN COUNCIL MEETINGS - 2nd Monday of every month - location TBA

SHERIDAN CLOSE UP INVITES YOU TO FAMILY MOVIE AND DINNER NIGHTS- SHOWING AT THE SHERIDAN ELEMENTARY -MARCH 21ST - SUPER MARIO BROS - DINNER AT 6 PM AND MOVIE 7 PM - Dinner & Movie - \$8 PER PERSON - Movie Only - \$3 PER PERSON

EASTER EGG HUNT - March 30th - 2 pm - At the park next to the Sheridan Library

**P'S CLOTHES & MORE**: Located above the Twin Bridges Library. Hours: Wednesday: 9-2, Friday: 10-2 Saturday: 10-2 - All items are FREE to the community. Call P at 406-600-2983 to donate or for questions.

#### **PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS:**

SHERIDAN - Newspaper History Group - Tuesday mornings @ 9 AM. Knitting Group - Thursdays @ 2 PM CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP - First and third Tuesdays at 6 pm For more information call 406-842-7981.

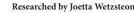
games, music, and crafts.

Twin Bridges Book Club meets every 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Blue Anchor. Dinner at 6:00 with meeting at 7:00. Please email dmmontana@3rivers.net for information Details will be coming soon for Smokey the Bear Reading Challenge!

other day or time. - 596-1978 & 233-9616

and post office.

3 RIVERS WORSHIP CENTER: WHERE HOPE, FAITH AND LOVE CONVERGE and we would love to have you join us. Come as you are and be blessed. Every Sunday @ 10:30 am @ 3648 MT-287. Family friendly



## RUBY VALLEY HAPPENINGS



- ELLING HOUSE Youth of Madison County Art Show March 16th Artists' reception at 5:30 PM on March 16. Gallery open Saturdays 2-5PM through April 20. Also open Sunday March 24 2-5PM. Elling House CHAUTAUQUA March 16 April 20th 7:30 to 9 pm See Ad
- WILDFLOWER MUSIC ACADEMY Mondays-10 am (Toddler Class up to age 5) Wednesdays 5:45 to 6:45 Children's Chorus (Age 8+) Thursdays 5:45 to 6:30 Youth Group Ukulele (Age 5+) Private Piano Lessons Available As Schedule Permits Call or Text Jaeleen Munns 406-465-5934 Country Roots 117 N Main St Unit A Sheridan, MT
- LOST CABIN BAR: Monday: Open Pool Table 5-7 Tuesday: Music Trivia 6:30 8 Wednesday: Whiskey Wednesday (Discount flights and tasters) Thursday: First Thursday of Month Ladies Night Friday: Red (Remember Everyone Deployed) Friday. Come in or call for details Every Monday through Friday Happy Hour 5-6 Check our FB page for weekend specials @lostcabinbar
- TWIN BRIDGES Twin Bridges public library is looking for volunteers to help during working hours with shelving. Wednesdays at 10:30 Story Time at Twin Bridges Public Library Children ages 18 months to five years will be entertained with reading,
- TWIN BRIDGES HELPING HANDS: Twin Bridges-MT Helping Hand Food Pantry Wednesday's. 10am to 3pm. Call for appointment any
- RUBY VALLEY FOOD PANTRY: Food is distributed on Saturday mornings from 10-12 @ 206 S. Main in Sheridan, MT -between gas station

#### DEADLINE OR SUBMISSIONS TO THE RUBY VALLEY NUGGET HAS CHANGED TO 1ST & 3RD MONDAYS!

### If you have a event you would like us to help you promote, please let us know. www.rubyvalleynugget@gmail.com







SPIFFY BIFFY PORTABLE TOILETS, INC. IS NOW OFFERING SEPTIC TANK AND UNDERGROUND VAULT PUMPING SERVICES











## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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### DOWN

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- 24. Color of most grasses
- 25. Declines
- 26. Custard dessert
- 27. Golfer's cry
- 28. Steady
- 30. Armory
- 32. Goat antelope
- 34. Indian dress
- 35. French for "State"
- 36. Expunge
- 40. Propriety
- 41. Last car of a train

- 43. Learn thoroughly
- 45. Twisty turns
- 46. Neighborhood
- 47. Nonchalantly
- unconcerned
- 49. Female demon
- 51. Found on rotary
- phones
- 52. Sunbathes
- 53. Writing fluids
- 54. Curved molding
- 55. Silent assents











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Madison County Nursing Homes Foundation, in support of the Tobacco Root Mountains Care Center in Sheridan and the Madison Valley Manor in Ennis, wishes you health, happiness and peace throughout this coming year. Thank you for your ongoing support.

> Board of Directors Charity Fechter, President - Melinda Merrill, Vice President Joanne Galiger - Paul Kramer - Paul Marsh Sammi Christensen - INA Accounting, Ancillary Services

> > "How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolenant of the weak and strong, because

neday in your life you will have been all of these.

THEF

**ONLY BAD** 

X

YOU DUDN'T

- George Washington Carve

### Strength Training Classes

Sheridan Senio

onday - Wednesday - Friday 2 p.m. - 3p.m.

Crofoot Sheridan, MT

For more information call (406)-842-5944 Classes lead by Mrs. Mary Verhow 'This is a strength sustaining class not aerobic.

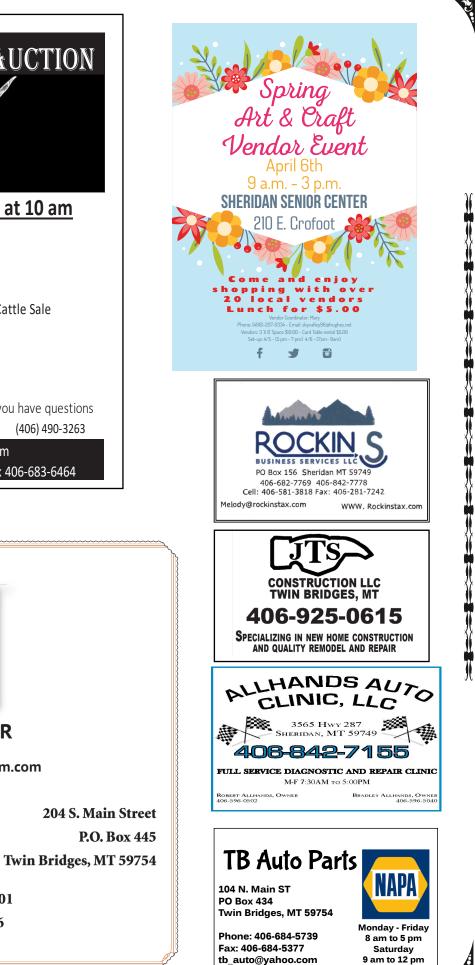






## **DILLON LIVESTOCK AUCTION** Sales are Thursdays starting at 10 am MARCH Split Diamond Bull Sale Special Feeder & All Class Cattle Sale No Sale All Class Cattle Sale Please call to consign to any of these sales or if you have questions (406) 660-1889 Jill Anderson (406) 490-3263 www.dillonlivestockauction.com 5747 Hwy 91 S. \* Phone 406-683-2002 \* Fax 406-683-6464 HARSHBARGER LAW FIRM www.harshbargerlawfirm.com Lori A. Harshbarger, Attorney

Phone: (406) 684-5001 Fax: (406) 684-5116



### BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOMESERVICES

MONTANA PROPERTIES

March/April 2024												
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat						
March	March 18 <sup>th</sup> MARCH MADNESS Calcutta @ Blue Anchor- 6:30pm	19	20 Twin Bridges Helping Hand Food Pantry 10am-3pm	21	22	23 Leprechaun Dash -Sheridan ===== Casino Night – Twin Bridges						
24	25	26	27	28	29	30						
Brunch & Bingo – Virginia City Elks Lodge 10am			Twin Bridges Helping Hand Food Pantry 10am-3pm			Easter Festival 2-4pm, Sheridan Library Park						
31	APRIL 1 <sup>st</sup>	2	3	4	5	6						
Happy Teaster	april:		Twin Bridges Helping Hand Food Pantry 10am-3pm									
7	8	9	10	11	12	13						
			Twin Bridges Helping Hand Food Pantry 10am-3pm	GAME NIGHT 6- 9pm @ Sheridan Senior Center								
14	15	16	17	18	19	20						
	TAX DAY		Twin Bridges Helping Hand Food Pantry 10am-3pm									



Nicholette Picken BROKER® (406)698-0853 nicholette.picken@gmail.com

# A CERTATION BEGINS @ 11AM RACES START @ 12PM \$25 early bird registration fee\*\*

NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK

7th Annual

(ends March 1st) \$30 registration fee after that

\*early registration guarentees a wag bag

for more information please visit: nkobsheridan.wordpress.com

or email us at: leprechaundashraceinfo@gmail.com











### Taking America Back, One County At a Time

- Do you think there are too many criminals & not enough public servants in our government?
- Do you think the criminals need consequences & the servants need supervision?
- ★ Do you think somebody should do something about it?

### If the answer is YES, JOIN US to learn about the

### Lawful, Peaceful & Permanent



### **UPCOMING SEMINARS IN MADISON COUNTY:**

Ennis: Lighthouse Fellowship 101 1st St, Ennis, MT

Tuesday, 2/13/24, 6:30 pm Tuesday, 3/12/24, 6:30 pm Tuesday, 4/9/24, 6:30 pm Lauren: Grace Community Barn Church 14 Stagecoach NW Ln, Lauren, MT

> Tuesday, 2/27/24, 6:30 pm Tuesday, 3/26/24, 6:30 pm Tuesday, 4/23/24, 6:30 pm

#### **EVERYONE WELCOME!**

Contact: Maryka Haskett (406) 600-7495 Madison County Co-coordinator

www.TacticalCivics.com