

FREE!
Volume 3, Issue 4

MOAB AREA

real estate

MAGAZINE

MAY-JUNE 2019

Eat. Sleep. Jeep. Repeat.

A look back at the 2019 Easter Jeep Safari



RIVER BIZ STEPS UP WITH
Seasonal Housing

Recycling Center
GETS A MAKEOVER

CALENDAR OF
Events

Directory
OF LOCAL INFO

INSIDE: The most complete local real estate listings



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MOAB AREA real estate MAGAZINE

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Cover: Chuck Wachendorfer and his son Ryan ascend the first sandstone fin on the Hell's Revenge trail in their Jeep Rubicon during the 2019 Easter Jeep Safari.



*"No one knows
San Juan County like we do!"*

**New
Location!**



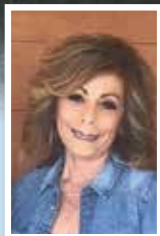
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NEW LISTING!

OVERLOOKING THE RED ROCKS!

Enjoy all the views overlooking the quaint little town of Bluff. Sitting at the front door of the Bears Ears Monument, Monument Valley, Valley of the Gods and Canyonlands and within driving distance to Mesa Verde and Arches National Monument makes this the perfect location! Enjoy perfect year-round living. Has 2 independent living spaces. 2 individual RV hookup spots. An oversized garage w/potential for a studio. Could be an income property or you could enjoy your own little paradise, the choice is yours!!

Must see! Priced at \$299,999 | #1593937 | Bluff



COUNTRY LIVING AT ITS BEST!!
3 bed, 2 bath, 1,812 sq.ft., 270 ac.
\$347,500 | #1582021 | Monticello

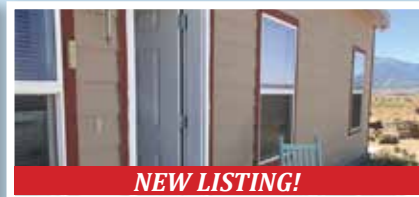


GREAT HOME W/HORSE PROPERTY!
4 bed, 2 bath, 11.20 ac.
\$190,000 | #1571421 | Monticello



UNDER CONTRACT!

RIGHT ON MAIN ST!
Larger lot/ great potential
\$60,000 | #1585478 | Monticello



NEW LISTING!

WIDE OPEN SPACE!!
4 bed, 3 baths, 2,108 sq.ft., 20ac.
\$299,000 | #1587339 | Monticello

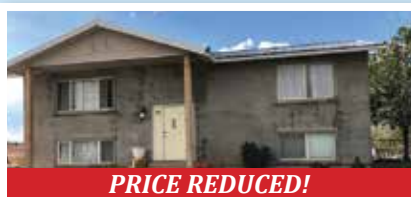


PRICE REDUCED!

EASTLAND PROPERTY
4.87 acres
\$24,900 | #1586581 | Monticello



10.73 ACRES RADIO HILL RD!
Amazing property!
\$67,000 | #1568446 | Blanding



PRICE REDUCED!

SPIRIT OF TRUE COMFORT!
4 bed, 2 bath, 2,016 sq.ft., 1ac.
\$180,000 | #1541599 | Blanding



DELIGHTFUL DISCOVERY!
2 bed, 1 bath, 876 sq.ft., .23 ac.
\$151,500 | #1541610 | Blanding



NEW LISTING!

FAMILY FRIENDLY!
4 bed, 1 bath, 1,301 sq.ft., .15ac.
\$140,000 | #1599588



BLUFF HOME WITH LAND!
2 bed, 1 bath, 1,515 sq.ft., 9.25 ac
\$645,500 | #1534294 | Bluff



UNDER CONTRACT!

HATCH TRADING POST!
Trading post. Living quarters included.
\$360,000 | #1548416 | Blanding



BUSINESS W/ADJACENT LOT!!
32 years in business/ Turnkey operation
\$335,000 | #1512524 | Monticello



UNLIMITED POTENTIAL!
5,130 sq.ft. of Commercial property!
\$250,000 | #1544585 | Monticello



GREAT COMMERCIAL PROPERTY!
1,252 sq.ft., great visible frontage
\$150,000 | #1544558 | Blanding

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Photo by Perpetual Images

Moab, beautiful Moab, the small town we have chosen to call home...

DRAMATIC CLIFFSIDE ESTATE



Just six miles from Moab City Center, nestled into the rocks, one with the slickrock fins, engulfed in the extreme landscape, a rarity to be discovered. Majestically perched cliff-side, this astounding home is perfectly integrated into the sandstone rocks that surround it. Luxury, drama, sleek design, impeccable quality, artistry, and a sense of welcome are the hallmarks of this gracious home. Call Rachel to arrange a showing, 435-260-8245.

- Masterfully Remodeled in 2017
- 5 Bed, 3.5 Bath, 7,365 SF
- 6.5 Cliff-side Acres
- Oversized 3 Car Garage
- Offered at \$3,450,000 #1569938



50 East Center Street, Moab, Utah

Find us in the Heart of Downtown, Just East of the Moab Information Center

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RealEstateCompanyofMoab

@moabliving

Moab's Real Estate Source:

WWW.MOABRECO.COM

BOUTIQUE VACATION RENTAL INVESTMENTS



MOAB FLATS

Situated less than a block off Main Street, this hip, retro vacation rental is a favorite with repeat guests. The sleek style & Insta-worthy aesthetic are beautifully complemented by all of the modern comforts your guests will love. Eight 1-bed units feature great design, individual heat/ac, dishwashers, laundry. Outdoor gathering space w/ hot tub, fire pit, bike wrenching and storage areas.

- **Eight One-Bedroom Units**
- **Increasing Revenue**
- **Offered at \$2,750,000 #1580823**

PURPLE SAGE FLATS

This gorgeous vacation rental property is located just 3 blocks off Main Street, on a shady, green .28 acre lot. Beautifully updated with a great vintage feel guests love, this 8-plex features excellent common spaces including a guest laundry, hot tub, fire pit, bike storage, and more. Completely turn-key, beautifully maintained, well-reviewed, this is an amazing opportunity to invest in Moab!



- **Eight Apartment-Style Units**
- **Lush, Shady Setting**
- **Offered at \$2,375,000 #1580859**

Your own Moab vacation destination...

CREEKSIDE NIGHTLY RENTAL COMPLEX



CREEKSIDE AT MOAB

One of a kind vacation rental complex in the walking district! This private oasis sits on a .69 acre creek-side parcel with a canopy of mature trees. Four rental homes, each with lovely outdoor space. Strong bookings and excellent reviews. Turn-key, well-maintained, tastefully furnished and finished, truly a phenomenal opportunity in Moab's dynamic nightly lodging market!

- **Four Nightly Rental Homes**
- **Amazing Downtown Location**
- **Offered at \$1,700,000 #1511526**



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GATEWAY TO ARCHES, CANYONLANDS, DEAD HORSE POINT!



HERE IT IS!

Be seen first, by the more than 7,500 vehicles per day traveling to and from downtown Moab! Easy highway access, close to 4x4 routes, mountain bike trails, endless recreation. Well with deeded water rights for 60 unit hotel, 30 seat cafe, 3 commercial units, 3 residential units; engineered septic system; power on site. The perfect site for an RV Resort, Hotel, 4x4 Camp, and more!

- **12.41 Acres; 1,500 FT Frontage!**
- **Resort Special Zoning in Place**
- **Offered at \$1,500,000 #1562898**



HIGHWAY ACRE Excellent high visibility location in town, with fabulous development potential! Two abutting lots, for 1.02 acres zoned Highway Commercial. Large 1,827 SF shop with restroom, office, overhead doors. Suited to an array of uses, flexible zoning! **\$1,500,000 #1519745**

A PERFECT CANVAS FOR YOUR VISION



MOAB WAREHOUSE Incredible location along the main traffic corridor, this 14,400 SF industrial building features retail, shop, office, restrooms, and more. Almost limitless potential for use and/or redevelopment, with Highway Commercial zoning on .55 acre. **\$1,375,000 #1570439**

WEST CENTER

Fantastic development opportunity in the downtown core! This lush, beautifully treed parcel is zoned Moab City C-2, which allows for an array of commercial and residential uses including density housing, dining, retail, apartment complexes, and more. The 4 bed, 3 bath 1,818 SF home is also an ideal long-term rental while you plan. One of a kind in the central walking district!

- **Downtown Walking District**
- **1.23 Acres, Moab City C-2 Zoned**
- **Offered at \$1,100,000 #1518237**



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THE MOST SECLUDED PROPERTY IN PACK CREEK



THE SOUND OF SILENCE

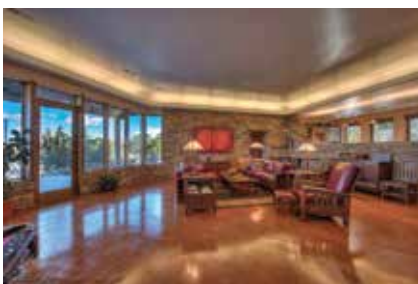
More than 20 private acres, bordered by Forest Service and BLM lands; the setting is impossible to match! The gorgeous 3 bed, 2.5 bath, 3,805 SF home celebrates the Southwest in inimitable detail throughout, with beautifully authentic adobe construction. Hand-carved vigas, Saltillo and Talavera tile, hand-coved plaster, kiva fireplaces; a stunning retreat!

- 20.8 Acres, Creekside
- 4 Stall Barn, Round Pen, Corrals
- Offered at \$1,600,000 #1564803

DWELL IN THE SOUTHWEST

Elegant, meticulously crafted luxury home with beautiful touches of the ancient dwellings of the region throughout. Superb views of the La Sal Mountains and Behind the Rocks Wilderness Study Area! Gracious, open floorplan, stellar kitchen with walk-in pantry, remote Master Suite with patio, dressing room, laundry. Indoor parking for 6 vehicles. Horses allowed!

- 3 Bed, 2 Bath, 3,170 SF
- 3 Garages; 12.83 Acres
- Offered at \$1,200,000 #1580425



EXQUISITE SOUTHWEST DETAIL



LUXURIOUS LIVING, EVERYDAY COMFORT



LUXURY IN THE RED ROCKS

This exceptional 5 bed, 4.5 bath, 3,018 SF luxury home is perfectly situated on a beautiful lot in Moab's White Horse Subdivision. The home is flooded with natural light, and features a chic yet welcoming aesthetic, and quality fixtures and finishes throughout. Magnificent Great Room, gracious floorplan, main bedroom suite in private wing features dual-sided gas fireplace.

- 5 Bedrooms, 4.5 Baths
- .66 Acres abuts Red Rocks
- Offered at \$1,089,000 #1586828



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360 DEGREE VIEWS

This exquisitely detailed 3 bed, 2 bath, 2,792 SF home is perfectly designed to celebrate high desert beauty and awe-inspiring views. Natural materials are featured throughout the home. Fabulous floorplan, with private Master wing. Extraordinary outdoor living spaces, cliff-side studio/teahouse, two car garage, large shed/shop, gorgeous setting on two lots with gated access.



- On Two Lots!
- 21.5 Acres, Gated Access
- Offered at \$998,000 #1377302



ECOLOGICAL SANCTUARY Harmonious balance of green living and extraordinary design in an amazing creek-side setting on 9.01 acres. Elegant craftsmanship, natural materials, artisanal materials throughout the 2 bed, 2 bath, 3,372 SF home with 75' indoor lap pool. **\$846,000 #1325867**



STUNNING LOCATION Extraordinary 3 bed, 3.5 bath, 3,282 SF Flat Iron Mesa home, built for energy efficiency in harmony with the landscape. Two Master Suites, sunroom, indoor lap pool, dual artists's studio, oversized 2 car garage on 13.07 gorgeous acres! **\$795,000 #1463584**



PERFECTION IS IN THE DETAILS This gorgeous 2 bed, 2 bath, 1,872 SF home is tucked into a glorious landscape w/ endless recreation just moments away. Impeccable quality & perfect detail are the hallmarks of this home. 3 car garage, full gym, covered patio, 2.63 acres. **\$747,000 #1553945**



DREAMS COME TRUE This 2 bed, 2 bath 1,524 SF beauty sits on 5.03 lush, irrigated, subdivide-able acres. Privacy, red rock and mountain views, abundant water. Green-built luxury home, geothermal heat/cool, grid-tied solar system. 2 car garage, pole barn, great horse property! **\$735,000 #1590764**

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SOUTHWEST SOLITUDE An astounding, 210.9 acre private retreat just south of Church Rock, tucked into an extraordinary valley. This lovingly crafted, energy-efficient 1 bed, 2 bath, 1,736 SF off-grid cabin features an elegant style & finish. Lovely patio and deck; Quonset hut, shed. Near Needles turnoff, close to Indian Creek climbing! **\$595,000 #1527998**



COYOTE RUN 15 Gorgeous turn-key golf course vacation rental home, with an elegant Western aesthetic and gracious space to relax and enjoy Moab living! Beautiful 3 bed, 3.5 bath, 2,000 SF home with vaulted ceilings, fireplace, main floor Master Suite, second Master Suite, multiple patios, hot tub, private fenced yard, 2 car garage on .18 acre. **\$595,000 #1593655**



CONTEMPORARY STUNNER Spectacular vacation rental investment! This newer 3 bed, 3.5 bath, 2,190 SF townhome was meticulously built and finished with a sleek, modern design and a wonderful floorplan you and your guests will love. All Master Suites, gas fireplace, private patio with hot tub and fire pit, 2 car garage, great revenue! **\$585,000 #1590757**



BLUFF RETREAT Unique and beautiful, this ecologically constructed retreat is nestled below Comb Ridge in historic Bluff! This exquisite property is comprised of two homes on a beautiful .92 acre parcel: Main house is 3 bed, 2.5 bath, 3,282 SF; Casita is 4 bed, 1 bath, 1,707 SF. Retreat to Southwest beauty; live in one home, rent the other! **\$490,000 #1562252**

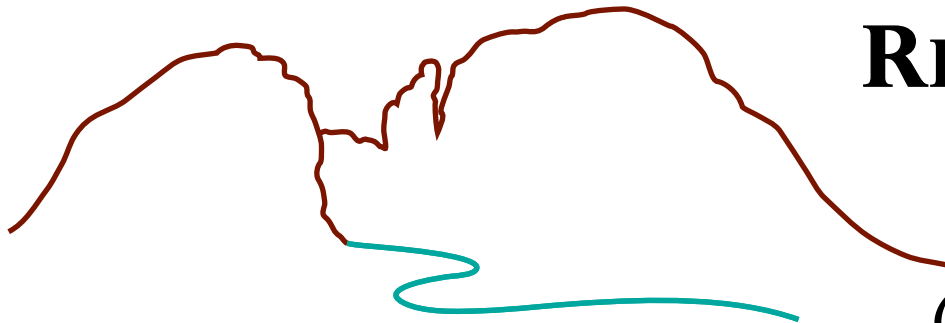
Moab, where adventure is inspired...



SECLUDED BEAUTY Mid-valley peace and privacy and an amazing agricultural setting with 10 Acre Feet of Ken's Lake Irrigation water! Bright and open 3 bed, 2 bath, 2,004 SF home, passive solar designed with great views through huge windows! 2 car garage. Fruit trees, pond, animal rights on 5.03 acres. **\$559,000 #1583857**



RIM VISTAS 5A6 You will love the sweeping views from this 3 bed, 2.5 bath, 1,562 SF corner unit, close to the pool! Main floor Master Suite, bonus half bath, loft area. Includes basic furnishings & decor, ready for you to add your signature style! Attached 2 car garage, nightly rental zoned. **New Price! \$409,000 #1582773**



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BRIGHT AND LOVELY Beautiful 3 bed, 2 bath, 2,202 SF home, built for a gracious and active lifestyle! Welcoming, light, formal yet easy-living throughout. Superb kitchen, beautiful Master Suite, indoor endless pool. Perfectly landscaped 1 acre; 2 car garage plus carport. **\$545,000 #1586359**



ORCHARD VILLA EASE Beautifully updated 2 bed, 2 bath, 1,171 SF townhome with a lovely setting on the green. Just minutes from shopping, dining, parks, and more. Open floorplan, accessibility features. 2 car garage, courtyard, community pool & RV parking. **\$340,000 #1594741**



MINUTES TO TOWN Classic split level just south of downtown with great views! You'll feel at home in this bright and open 4 bed, 2 bath, 1,706 SF home with bonus family room. Great porch and concrete patio, fenced back yard, room for gardens on .17 acre. Carport with storage. **\$339,000 #1589083**



HISTORIC MOAB Absolutely charming 1906 Victorian with a fabulous location! This 4 bed, 2 bath, 2,741 SF home offers wonderful potential for the historical property buff! Stunning period detail including gingerbread trim & other architectural features. .15 acre in the heart of downtown! **\$335,000 #1590222**



OVERLOOK THE MOAB VALLEY This cute 3 bed, 1 bath, 1,362 SF home enjoys a wonderful setting for breathtaking views! You will love the easy lifestyle offered by this well-maintained home. Fireplace in living room, amazing patio, sweet .50 ac lot with great backyard, huge garage. **\$325,000 #1565099**



READY TO WELCOME YOU This bright, open, welcoming 3 bed, 2 bath, 1,577 SF home awaits, with superb valley views. Excellent floorplan, move right in! You will love the .32 acre corner lot, with a fenced back yard & large side yard. 2 car garage, RV/trailer parking. **\$329,000 #1571234**



OPPORTUNITY AWAITS Fantastic opportunity to capture one of Moab's rare C-5 Neighborhood Commercial parcels! This .19 acre lot is zoned for multi-family housing, offices, cafes, and more. Cute 2 bed, 2 bath, 1,600 SF home in place, great long-term rental while you plan! **New Price! \$315,000 #1574463**

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COMMERCIAL PROPERTY
Room to roam, and fabulous redevelopment potential! Zoned Cd-h, just off the main corridor with great highway visibility. Cute 2 bed, 1 bath, 1,386 SF home; agricultural feel, horses allowed OR zoned for vacation rentals! Plenty of parking on .87 ac w/ views! **\$325,000 #1567310**



MOAB BUSINESS PARK A7
Fabulous 1,800 SF flex use industrial space just off Hwy 191 with visibility from the road! Unit A7 features a 3/4 bath, office, central heat and cool, a public frontage and overhead door at the read of the unit. Perfect for shop, business, RV/toy storage; build out to suit your needs! **\$297,000 #1592375**



TURN-KEY RENTAL HOME
Delightfully updated 3 bed, 2 bath, 1,488 SF home on a quiet side street close to town. Gorgeous new kitchen & baths, open floorplan, nice Master Suite. Plenty of trailer parking and room to grow on .43 acre. Furnished, turn-key, ready to enjoy or rent! **\$260,000 #1555088**



EASY MOAB LIVING Pleasant and light-filled, this 3 bed, 2 bath, 840 SF manufactured home is tucked on a quiet side street and offers a lush, tree-filled .18 acre parcel. Many modifications in place to make the space wheelchair accessible. The yard features fruit trees and a storage shed. **\$162,900 #1579582**

Get away from it all, with room to roam...



RARE COUNTRY LIVING Extraordinary estate site just south of town, with sweeping views in all directions! This gorgeous 3.62 acre parcel features abundant irrigation rights, well w/well house, pole barn/carport, storage shed, studio with bath, RV pad w/ full hookups, and adorable 2 bed, 1 bath, 720 SF cottage. Room for your dream home & horses! **\$599,000 #1585623**



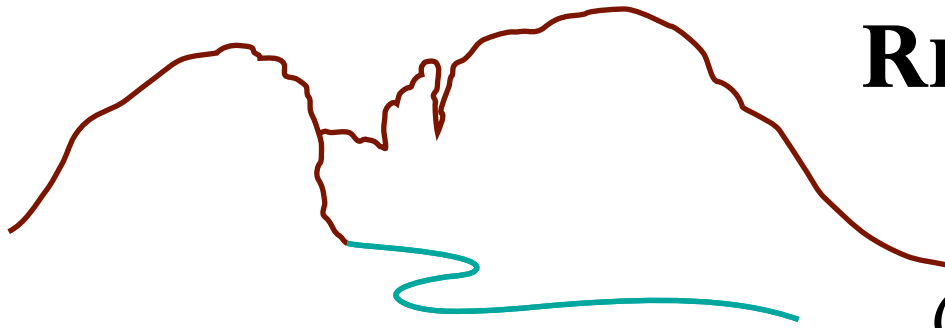
PRIVACY & VIEWS! 2 bed, 2 bath, 1,767 SF off-grid home in a peaceful setting with stunning views on 68.35 private acres NE of Monticello. Solar electric, propane cooking/hot water, wood stove, cistern, well, septic. Cell/Internet service; keep in touch while you get away from it all! **\$278,000 #1386941**



UNIQUE RETREAT "Not so big" house in gorgeous Pack Creek. This 2 bed, 1.5 bath, 1,687 SF home offers a serene setting and a comfortable feel and flexible living space. Fabulous mountain views from the deck! Workshop, storage shed on 1 acre, surrounded by 23+ acres deeded open space. **\$349,000 #1436947**



GREAT START Unique property in La Sal, an easy jump-start to mountain living! This flat, 1.44 acre parcel enjoys great mountain views. There is an excellent 2,400 SF Quonset hut in with a concrete foundation; power, septic, and well with good water flow. Create your dream retreat! **New Price! \$92,000 #1574450**



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UNPARALLELED BEAUTY 10.71 acre Bridger Jack Mesa lot, massive views and stunning cliff edge! **\$315,000 #1571223**



RARE DOUBLE-SIZED LOT Spacious 2.61 acre double lot, water and power, perc tests done. **\$95,000 #1316168**



ELEVATED MOUNTAIN VIEWS Get away from it all, on this 37.64 acre parcel northeast of Monticello! Driveway, shed. **\$65,000 #1562981**



EXTREME VIEWS Magnificent views and terrain atop Kayenta Heights on this 2.6 acre parcel alive with slick rock! **\$159,000 #1592880**



VIEWS IN TOWN! Gorgeous views in all directions, great location just below Pipe Dream! Most utilities stubbed, 0.49 ac **\$150,000 #1565507**



PERFECT ESCAPE Gorgeous 11.92 acre Bridger Jack parcel, easy access, great views from your private mesa! **\$179,000 #1585776**



HIGH DESERT Stunning 15.88 acre parcel in Flat Iron Mesa. Amazing mountain and red rock views! **\$159,000 #1524056**



MOUNTAIN VIEWS Beautiful 9.5 acre lot in Deer Haven Park, Old La Sal. Adjoining 10 acres also for sale! **\$115,000 #1524230**



LA SAL PEAKS Incredible views from this 10 acre lot in Old La Sal! Power, telephone, water available. **\$127,500 #1524238**



ICONIC RED ROCK VIEWS Exceptional .37 acre cul-de-sac lot, ready for the home of your dreams! **New Price! \$120,000 #1572527**



IMAGINE YOUR HOME Cul-de-sac setting and picture perfect views from this great .95 acre building lot! **\$175,000 #1580312**



EASY RETREAT Beautiful 1.33 acre building lot just 30 minutes from downtown; power, phone, water, perc test complete! **\$55,000 #1588573**



ABSOLUTELY STUNNING 3.66 gorgeous acres perched above the valley. Abutting parcel also for sale! **\$250,000 #1346908**



YOUR ISLAND IN THE SKY Kayenta Heights view lot, 3.23 acres in a dramatic landscape. Seller Financing! **\$189,900 #1260380**



RECREATIONAL PARADISE Welcome to Wray Mesa, just past Old La Sal. Power, water, parcels 2.59-38+ acres. **Priced From \$57,000**



BACK OF THE ARCH Capture this easy-to-build .31 acre lot for your get-away cabin! Power, septic, well, phone/DSL. **\$45,000 #1597581**

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A LANDSCAPE THAT INSPIRES



YOUR MILLCREEK CANYON

An absolutely surreal place, your own private canyon, tucked into a landscape that will both inspire your reverence, and invite you to explore its beauty... creekside spaces, red rock walls dotted with petroglyphs framing the canyon floor, and sweeping up onto the flat, eastern mesa. What an extraordinary site for a one-of-a-kind retreat!

- Just Past Ken's Lake
- 115.39 Amazing Acres!
- Offered at \$2,250,000 #1434478



PACK CREEK ESTATE

Stunning estate site in the Pack Creek area! This beautiful 11.18 acre parcel is tucked into the foothills of the La Sals with superb mountain and red rock views. Pack Creek flows across the parcel; includes 1/8 interest in 23 acres deeded open space! **\$475,000 #1563035**



WOODLANDS ACREAGE

Fabulous offering of 79.82 beautiful acres of accessible mountain property! Just past Old La Sal, with incredible potential! Power, wells with deeded water rights in place. Amazing site for private retreat, glamour camping, cowboy camp, and more! **\$678,000 #1525950**

Buying or Selling Moab? We're Here to Help.



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EAT. SLEEP. JEEP. REPEAT.

A LOOK BACK AT THE 2019 EASTER JEEP SAFARI

Written by Robin B. Dahm | Photos by Murice D. Miller

Chad Gobbell of Clovis, California admires the Easter Jeep Safari for reasons that go well beyond its access to Moab's gorgeous scenery and world-famous trails.

"I have been around a lot of four-wheeling. However, I've never seen an event that is so organized and cares so much about keeping the trails open, making sure everything is clean and tidy, and that everyone is safe."

Organizers of the Jeep Safari know that many years of hard work and outreach have gone into earning that kind of reputation.

"It's the role of responsible organizations such as Red Rock 4-Wheelers (RR4W) to protect these trails and limit the impacts," says Doug McElhaney, who,



since 1984, has held either the club's presidential or vice-presidential position a total of 22 times, and currently works as the vendor coordinator.

In the 1980s, the event, which started in 1967, became instrumental in helping to reboot Moab's ailing economy.

"Moab was dead," says McElhaney. "The uranium and oil industries had basically left. There were many Moab residents out of work who had to relocate to find jobs."

Moab's leaders began to shift their economic focus. "The Moab Chamber of Commerce had realized that the economy was changing toward tourism," McElhaney says. "[It] had started a couple of events, one of which was Jeep Safari."



TODAY'S JEEP SAFARI

At the heart of the event is a series of 42 trails. These are chosen for their scenic beauty and difficulty levels that run the gamut from very easy to outrageously challenging. The trail leaders — on-scene ambassadors of the routes — know them well.

Overall Jeep Safari attendance has remained steady over the past decade, at no more than 1,800 vehicles, says McElhaney, since there are strict limits on the numbers of participants per trail.

As they lead their caravans of off-road vehicles, the trail leaders share their enthusiasm and knowledge. They work to communicate a sense of stewardship for the trails and land, says McElhaney. The Safari is also recognized for its commitment to being family-friendly and alcohol-free.

Jeep Safari marks the arrival of spring — and the arrival of Easter, which falls on the final Saturday of the nine-day event. The town fills with all manner of visiting four-wheel-drive vehicles, many in tow. A good number of these vehicles have significant modifications and strong personalities of their own. On “Big Saturday,” the biggest day for the Safari, many residents and visitors seat themselves comfortably along Main Street to watch the vehicles convoy to their trail meeting places.

While the event participants mostly drive Jeep brand vehicles, McElhaney says that all brands of street legal vehicles have always been welcome. Side by side vehicles, which have events of their own at other times of the year, are not part of



Jeep Safari, since they are a smaller, differently geared type of vehicle, McElhaney says.

“They can’t go slow enough, and we can’t go fast enough,” jokes McElhaney.

Many visitors are seasoned participants of Easter Jeep Safari, some of whom have participated in the safari for more than a decade.

For Paul Anderson of Madera, California, this year was his tenth Safari. He missed 2017 and says that he has “regretted it ever since.”

Anderson brings his heavily modified 2005 Jeep LJ Rubicon to the event.

“This is the mecca of Jeep events,” he says. “Just the number of people from all over the world. Moab provides some of the best four-wheeling — and probably the most dramatic scenery that I’ve ever been to.”

Anderson says he is a paying member of RR4W, even though he lives in California. “My wife and I joined RR4W because we are into what they do ... and making sure the trails are accessible to everyone,” he says. “We also wanted to participate and help the club during Jeep Safari. We don’t just show up. I see the eyes of new participants light up and enjoying the trails, the scenery. It makes you feel good.”

Moab resident Annette Myers has been a RR4W member and volunteer for more than 20 years, and a trail leader for more than 10 years. She and her husband Bob — also a long-time member and trail leader — describe themselves as “passionate” about their involvement. She explains that much of the fee revenue collected

goes towards preserving the trails and upkeeping signage that helps people to be aware of staying off protected areas.

“Besides the obvious beauty of the area and experiencing places otherwise difficult to see, you get a better understanding of the geographical and archeological history of this amazing country,” says Myers.

“[And you meet] people from all over the world [who share your] passions and interests.”

Anderson says he has made friends with people from Denmark, Canada, Israel and Australia during previous Jeep Safaris.

“We keep in touch ... throughout the year,” he says. “We plan our next trip to Moab. We show up for the people, the trails, and the scenery.”

Opposite page, top: The spectacular view down river from high on the Moab Rim trail. **Opposite page, bottom:** Moab’s Doug McElhaney has served as the Red Rock 4-Wheelers president or vice-president on 22 occasions since 1984. [Courtesy photo] **Top:** A Jeep tackles the popular Potato Salad Hill challenge. **Bottom:** Pretty in pink.



SAFARI EXPO

During Jeep Safari, other event-related venues pop up around town. Vehicle and other vendors change the shopping landscape along Main Street as they set up their outdoor tents in parking lots, lending a festive, celebratory air to the town.

The largest of these events is the two-day Easter Jeep Safari Expo, held at the Old Spanish Trail Arena.

The expo draws in the public, as well as Jeep Safari participants. Free to all, the venue showcases manufacturers and sales organizations,

both large and small. The vendor demand for display space has grown to the point that a waiting list is necessary these days. The exhibits spill out of the building itself, into the parking lot. Product displays are limited to items of interest to the Jeep Safari crowd, although some space has been donated to worthy causes directly related to the event's activities. Repairs and tire tests are available, too.

For many attendees, the most exciting part of the expo is its raffle, with prizes totaling many thousands of dollars in value. Each registered Jeep Safari participant receives a free raffle ticket for

this event, which typically goes on for hours. Winners must be present for the drawings, because certain prizes — like a set of tires — are quite large and must be immediately claimed and picked up.

McElhaney performs the complicated task of organizing all the moving parts for this dynamic event. His work begins the September of the previous year, a full seven months before the event takes place.

"I care so much about how well the expo runs," says an enthusiastic McElhaney, "and how it affects the participants and vendors, that I can typically [participate in] only two trails per Safari."



Top: A group from Brigham Young University gathers near the Hell's Revenge trail during the 2019 Easter Jeep Safari. **Bottom:** A group from Los Angeles in a custom Jeep.



THE EARLY DAYS

Why did McElhaney become a volunteer so long ago? He describes the days when Moab was much smaller and the economy was suffering. At that time, he says, the Chamber of Commerce realized that the future of Moab wasn't going to be mineral exploration, it was in tourism. And so, in 1984, they gave away a couple of their events, including Jeep Safari, to different organizations.

"The Chamber had limited resources for volunteerism, says McElhaney. Additionally, "in 1983 the Chamber, BLM, and the state required insurance and a land-use fee. So, the Chamber decided not to continue [their event]. Then it asked the RR4W to take over. It floundered for a while. Then it then grew."

All volunteers directly involved with the trails themselves must be RR4W members, McEl-

haney explains. Trail leaders, trail helpers, trail officials — for insurance reasons — pay annual membership dues.

RR4W works year-round to support not just Moab Easter Jeep Safari itself, but also the health of local trails. "[We] work to keep the trails open," explains McElhaney. "We do this all year long. Some people would like these trails closed permanently, because they would like to see them as wilderness."

McElhaney says that the best way to ensure trails stay open is to teach good stewardship, like "Stay on the trail; pick up your trash; don't make more trails."

"About every 10 years," says McElhaney, "the counties and state do an inventory of the trails. This includes the state of the trails, how the trails are being used and by whom. It's called the Resource Management Plan, and the public can and does participate in this."

LOOKING DOWN THE ROAD

Getting information about the next Easter Jeep Safari is easy. The Red Rock 4-Wheelers website, RR4W.com, provides a wealth of information.

Months before the event, RR4W and Canyonlands Advertising publish an extensive catalog of all things Jeep Safari. This free guide, found on newsstands around town, and is full of photographs of the trails, info on how to register, trail schedules and how to become a trail official. Trails are described in detail, along with their difficulty ratings. The descriptions also include the names and photos of the trail leaders.

"Over the years," said McElhaney, "we've had people from all 50 states and 11 foreign countries. I've made great friends and look forward to seeing them every year. It's fun sharing my love for the area with new people and with old friends."

McElhaney remains dedicated to the sustainability of the event and the outdoor resources it uses.

"Now that the world has found us, it's our job to educate the public about the trails, and how to protect them. It doesn't matter how people use the trails—hike, bike, jeep—they all need to be protected, so that future generations can enjoy them."

For return visitors like Paul Anderson, it would not be an exaggeration to say Jeep Safari is a moving experience.

"Seeing the red rock, just exploring ... it's absolutely beautiful out here. I would hate to (not have) this in my life," he said. "I'll come back every year, as long as I'm able." ■



Top: A Tacoma and its mysterious driver climb Potato Salad Hill near Mill Creek. **Bottom:** The setting sun casts a warm light on the trail ahead of a Jeep during Easter Jeep Safari.



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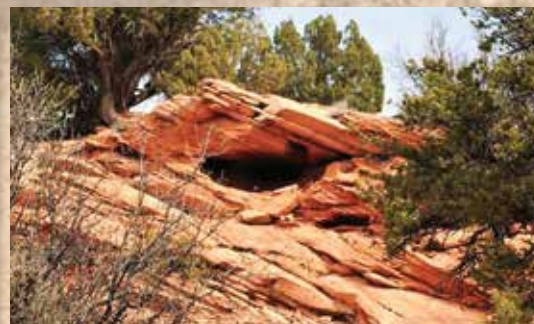
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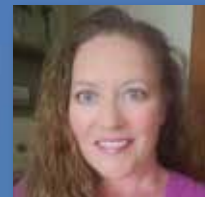
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COUNTRY LIVING ON THE EDGE OF TOWN. Situated on 1 acre, this 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath has many updates throughout, including a remodeled kitchen. Enjoy summer sunsets on the upper deck or sunrise from the front porch. Upper loft with living area, tile and hardwood throughout, mature trees and plenty of room for parking and growth. MLS#1593031 | \$339,000 **Danette 435-260-0130**



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RIM VISTAS NIGHTLY RENTAL This investment property is nicely furnished in a modern décor. Conveniently located close to main street, but away from all the hustle and bustle. The patio faces the pool and tennis court areas with great views of Moab Rim. Three bedrooms, 2 1/2 bathrooms and two car garage. On-Site amenities include: tennis/basketball court, hot tub, pool, pavilion, and playground. MLS#1561406 | \$430,000 | **Dave 435-260-1968**



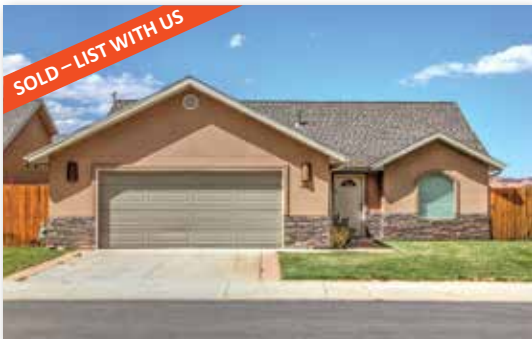
GREAT INVESTMENT PROPERTY! Corner unit and one of the few units in Rim Vistas with a garage. Amazing views all through out the home and from both outside patios. Townhome is fully furnished and has three bedrooms, two full bathrooms and one-half bathroom. Amenities include; tennis/basketball court, hot tub, pool, pavilion, and playground. MLS#1553537 \$430,000 | **Dave 435-260-1968**



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RESIDENTIAL LAND LISTINGS

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IN LA SAL. Power at lot and phone nearby. Can be purchased with deed restricted pond parcel.

MLS#1215877 | \$38,400

Owner/Agent | **Dave 435-260-1968**

ENJOY THE SPECTACULAR VIEWS of The La Sal Mountains from this 6.48-acre lot in Old La Sal. Access is by an improved gravel road. A large storage shed and power at lot line are also included. Oak brush and sage brush vegetate this very buildable lot.

MLS#1477628 | \$65,000 | **Dave 435-260-1968**

AN INCREDIBLY SPECIAL PROPERTY with endless possibilities. Off grid-farming, raising animals, solitude, hunting, hiking, abundant wildlife, privacy, retreat, most anything you can imagine. Plenty of water (springs & wells) for gardens and irrigation. Swimming pond for fun and memories. Mature fruit trees. Over 25 acres (10 usable acres) at the base of the La Sal Mountains. Culinary water, septic system, propane, solar system, generator, on demand water heater, workshop, green house, chicken coop and yurt in place on property. MLS#1458893 | \$250,000

SOLD - LIST WITH US!

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SPECTACULAR VIEWS FROM THIS DEVELOPED LOT IN DEER HAVEN.

4.10-acre lot in Old La Sal. Power and water to Lot with shared well. Located at the base of the La Sals this property has an abundance of wildlife.

SOLD - LIST WITH US! MLS#1532759 | \$59,000

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BEAUTIFUL OFF GRID LIVING 16.49 acre lot in Old La Sal. This semi-remote lot at the end of a gravel road will make someone a great off-grid cabin site. Near HWY 46 but far enough away to give you a quite secluded hide-away with spectacular views.

SOLD - LIST WITH US! MLS#1512628 | \$70,000

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COMMERCIAL LISTINGS

2.40 ACRE HWY COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

with combined retail and warehouse space of 14,456 sq. ft. There is an additional 3,255 sq. ft. of covered outdoor storage. Located on Hwy 191, directly across the proposed USU campus, this property has great visibility with ample customer parking.

Owners are selling property and buildings only.

SOLD - LIST WITH US! MLS#1486734 | \$2,999,000

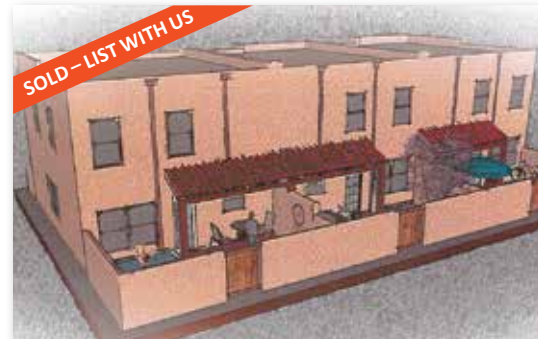
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MILL CREEK PUEBLO TOWNHOME ON THE GREEN SPACE. 3-bedroom 2 bath corner unit. Enjoy the south facing pastoral views from your upstairs bedroom deck or your downstairs patio walk out. Fireplace, community pool. MLS#1582666 | \$319,000. **Rick 435-260-2599**



TO BE BUILT TOWNHOMES AT RIM VISTA: New design with patios in front and back, 2 Master Bedrooms with en suite bathrooms upstairs and a ½ bath on main level, 1274 sq. ft. Amenities include Pool, Hot Tub, Playground and Pavilion. Zoned for overnight rentals. \$309,000 | MLS#1580590 AVAILABLE – **1580587, 1580578 UNDER CONTRACT Dave 435-260-1968**



NEW DESIGN AT RIM VISTAS – New design with patios in front and back, 2 Master Bedrooms with en suite bathrooms upstairs and a ½ bath on main level, 1274 sq. ft. Amenities include Pool, Hot Tub, Playground and Pavilion. Zoned for overnight rentals. \$299,900 | MLS#1493320 | **Dave 435-260-1968**



RIM VISTA TOWNHOME – This 3BR/2.5BA townhome is being sold as a turnkey rental. Owner has taken great pride in this property. Recently touched up all paint, including repainting garage. This unit faces the La Sal Mountain and has easy access to the pool and tennis/basketball court. MLS#1504918 \$425,000 | **Dave 435-260-1968**

RECYCLING CENTER GETS REVAMPED

FACILITY ENJOYING NEW LEADERSHIP AND EXPANDED SERVICES

Written by Rachel Fixsen | Photos by Murice D. Miller

“Overall, there are huge opportunities with everything we’re doing,” says Evan Tyrrell, the new District Manager for the Solid Waste Special Service District (SWSSD) in Grand County, speaking about the Community Recycle Center. Specifically, says Tyrrell, **“we’re optimizing of our existing operations, and then moving towards new and enhanced waste diversion efforts and methods of operation.”**

The SWSSD manages the Moab and Klondike Landfills as well as the Community Recycle Center on Sand Flats Road. The recycling facility is one route of “waste diversion” that can reduce the volume of material being deposited into the landfill, which extends its life. However, as Tyrrell says of the recyclables trade, “It’s a very complex, tricky market as a whole.”

Over the past year, the center struggled to keep up its normal operations. Due to leadership vacancies, staff turn-over, an increasing demand for services, and drops in commodity pricing, the center was barely getting by, and the problems were apparent to users dropping off their recyclables. Sun-bleached cardboard piled to precipitous heights, wind-blown debris littered the yard, and a skeleton crew of employees were daunted by the mounting backlog. The center had to reduce its operating hours and drastically cut the variety of items they would accept.

Annette Myers is the Administrative Assis-

stant for the SWSSD, and also served as the interim District Manager over the winter, when the previous district manager unexpectedly stepped down. She described the recent growing pains experienced by the district.

“We’ve gone through a process here at the district, assessing ... how we wanted to be represented to the community, by listening to the community — its concerns, what it is that they wanted, what they expected of us,” says Myers. “And coupling that with what we expect of ourselves, to become more professional, to be able to provide the types of services that the community needed. We needed to grow and find people who have the ability to grow with us.”

That growth included hiring Tyrrell. Tyrrell has worked in waste management in Indiana and New Mexico, and began his position in Moab in January. He said he had been looking for a way to make Moab his home, and is excited to embrace the challenges and potential of the community’s recycling needs.

“I think it’s an amazing area, a very proactive community and amazing people here. And the landscape and the outdoor opportunities are great,” he says.

Other key staff arrived in the last year, as well. Chris Scovill came on as the facilities supervisor in October of 2018, and took big steps toward cleaning up the center, addressing its backlog, and maintaining its operations.

“I have to credit the hard working staff, and Chris Scovill, specifically, for getting the recycling center cleaned up,” said Tyrrell. “We’ve started to improve our methods of operation, to make them more efficient, to lessen the degree of the material getting contaminated by not only other commodities that shouldn’t be with them, but also from exposure to the sun, wind and rain.”

“The staff here has been incredible — really great staff, as a whole. They’re very dedicated, very hard working,” he added.

"TURNING THE SHIP AROUND"

The center has resumed regular hours of operation, and can now accept nearly all the materials that it had taken in the past, with the exception of plastics #3 through #7, and clam-shell containers. The value of those materials is simply too low to make it viable for the center to take them, says Tyrrell.

The cardboard pile — affectionately referred to as "Mount Tukuhihibox" by one local official involved with the center (punning on the name of one of the highest peaks in the La Sal Mountains) — has been reduced to a manageable heap that is regularly packaged and neatly stored until it can be shipped to vendors.

Cardboard and other materials are baled, loaded, and shipped out as efficiently as possible, depending on current market prices, heading off a trash-strewn yard and any challenging backlogs. A larger staff and a streamlined process means deposits from community members are more closely supervised, and there is less contamination of materials.

"Evan [Tyrrell] and Chris [Scovill] — those two set everything on the right track, and it's like turn-



ing a ship around — like, a huge ship," says Sara Melnicoff, executive director of Moab Solutions, a local non-profit that promotes recycling as part of their mission. "They're doing an amazing job."

While the center finds itself back on an even keel, improvements for the facility are just beginning. In a creative vision taking shape with input

from recycle center staff, local non-profit groups, City and County representatives, and community members, plans are underway for the center to evolve into more of a community hub — a place where people can enjoy art and culture, and share ideas and techniques for all kinds of waste reduction and sustainable choices, not just recycling.



COLLABORATION AND CREATIVITY

The first project realized through this collaboration was a native plant project along the roadside outside the recycling center. After the center's fence was damaged and had to be replaced, and the ground stripped to sand, Melnicoff, who visits the center nearly every day, was discussing the area with Tyrrell.

"Evan said it would be nice to plant something there," Melnicoff recalls. The following day she ran into an acquaintance who is a member of the Utah Native Plant Society, and mentioned the idea.

"She had, just the day before, noticed an area on Spanish Valley Drive that had many, many, many plants that were about to be bulldozed,"

Melnicoff says. "So she contacted the contractor and then she and another woman went and saved sixty native plants... and they came to the center and planted them."

Other volunteers and organizations have since donated time, materials, and more plants to the now-vegetated spot — watering, weeding, mulching, and shaping the ground to channel water. Once the plants are established, they'll be able to sustain themselves.

"It's an experiment, it's a great volunteer thing," Melnicoff says of the project. "In just, like, forty-eight hours they had rescued and re-planted all these plants. It's amazing to me."

Tyrrell has been meeting with representatives of other community groups, as well. Makeda Barkley is the Associate Director of the Moab Arts and Recreation Center. She and Tyrrell have brainstormed about painting murals on the walls of some of the recycling center buildings, installing sculptures made of "up-cycled" materials on the center's premises, and even creating an artist residency program involving the use of up-cycled materials.

"Evan's holistic approach to re-vamping the Recycle Center lends itself to the ideals of the Moab community," Barkley says. "Involving artists in this process is a way to also build more relationships with the community."

Top: Community Recycle Center staff, left to right, Kenny Key, operator/recycling technician, Evan Tyrrell, district manager, Chris Scovill, facilities supervisor, Kalene Bradley, recycling technician, Annette Myers, administrative assistant/accounting. In background, Brandon Bertwell, equipment operator. **Bottom left:** Recycling technician Kenny Key ensures proper sorting and recyclable material placement at the District's source-separated Community Recycle Center located at 1000 Sand Flats Rd. **Bottom right:** Volunteers for the Utah Native Plants Society Canyonlands Chapter placing mulch and rocks at the new garden containing rescued native plants at the Community Recycle Center.

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Tyrrell has sketched an idea for a new design of the materials drop-off area, in which the bins are arranged in a convex semi-circle and traffic flows in one side and out the other. This flow would create a central pivot point, like the center of a traffic circle, which could be a home for a garden or sculpture element. Barkley is a proponent of incorporating art at a waste management facility.

"Art is integral to the well-being of communities everywhere, as is maintaining waste disposal in a responsible way. This potential partnership opens a lot of doors for expanded re-use avenues, a more welcoming recycling facility, and support of local artists," she says.

The Resiliency Hub, a local non-profit dedicated to creating sustainable solutions to community needs, has also been proactive in offering ideas for the future of the center. Stephanie Hamborsky has represented the group in talks with Tyrrell, and they've discussed a host of ideas.

One possibility is the creation of a "re-use center," where potentially useful items that would otherwise be discarded could be housed on the Recycle Center premises and offered for free to anyone who wants them. Another possibility is small-scale manufacturing using new technology developed to re-purpose waste materials that have a low market value, such as numbers three through seven plastics. For example, a Salt Lake City company called "Renewlogy" uses such plastics to create diesel fuel. Another example are Ubuntu blocks, which are made of compressed waste plastics and can be used as a building material. The Resiliency Hub hosted a demonstration using Ubuntu blocks in Moab last year, and hopes to make an Ubuntu press available to the community.

Hamborsky says the Resiliency Hub supports recycling, but encourages waste reduction as a first choice.



"Resiliency Hub is definitely interested in seeing more holistic waste management, up-cycling and reuse, and consumption reduction, up front," says Hamborsky. "Like upstream, how can we reduce our impact in this community? You know, recycling is great, but that's sort of our last resort, right? How can we eliminate waste in the first place?"

Tyrrell agrees with this perspective. "Our mission is to manage waste in Grand County, and that includes the recycle, reuse, reduce options as well," he says.

The Resiliency Hub plans to host a community meeting at the center called 'Envisioning the Future of Moab's Waste Stream,' to gather input on the center from community members. Hamborsky says it will also be a chance to "get updates from people in the community about

our landfills, our recycling situation, composting, food waste, and generally our waste stream."

Those involved with the Recycle Center are energized and optimistic about the future of Moab's waste facilities.

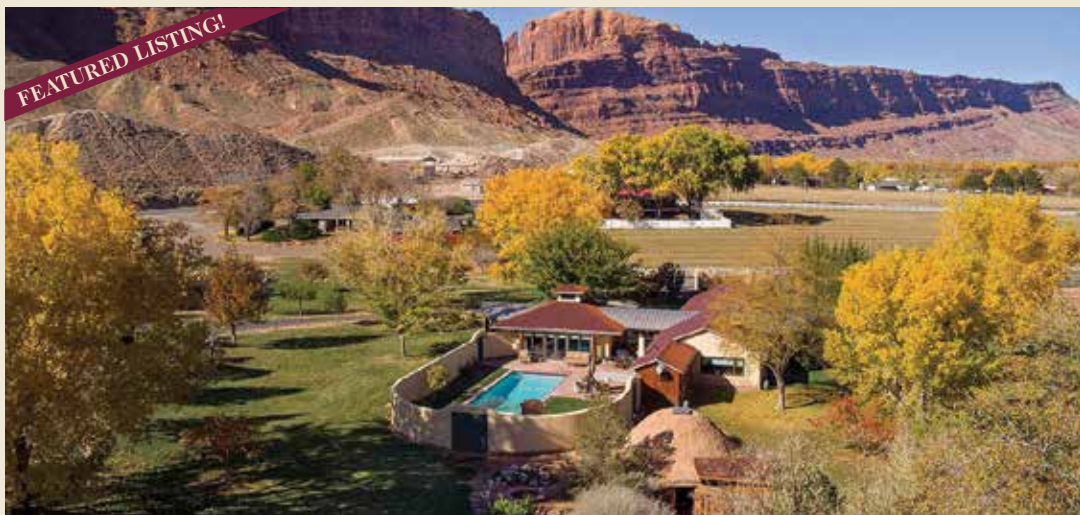
"We have a really active community, and they know how important it is for us that we have these volunteer groups that come in and help," says Annette Myers. "We have a supervisor and district manager who are both very creative and community-involved."

Melnicoff echoes this attitude. "[Tyrrell is] in tune with all the latest stuff, and he's got energy," she says. "He's very into partnerships. If we all want the same goal of reducing what's going into the landfill, the more we work together, the more we can start to achieve." ■



Top: District recycling technician Kalene Bradley monitors cardboard being loaded into baler by operator Brandon Bertwell. **Bottom left:** A customer drops off recyclable plastic at the Community Recycle Center in May. **Bottom right:** Heavy equipment is used to manage trash at the Moab Landfill. An objective of the Community Recycle Center is to work with the community to reduce the amount of material that makes it to the landfill.

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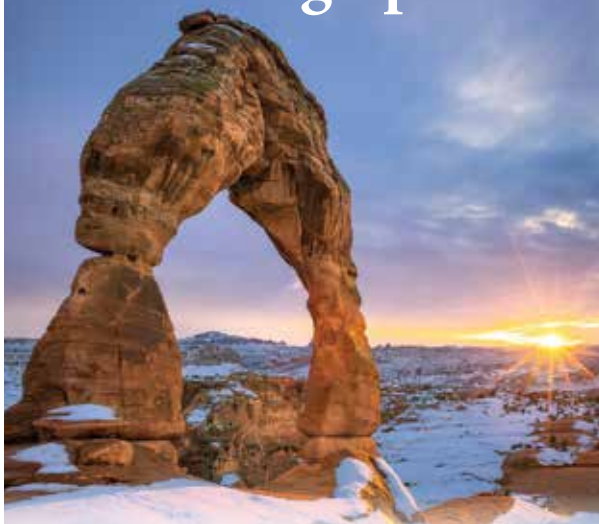
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GUIDING COMPANY STEPS UP WITH EMPLOYEE HOUSING

*Amid housing crunch,
Western River's CEO
commits to new apartments
for seasonal workers*

Written by Ashley Bunton



Western River Expeditions' Brian Merrill is building a sense of community among his company's river guides with a new affordable housing project that is under-way in Moab.

When Merrill came to Moab in the 1980s and began guiding at Western River Expeditions, he said there were abundant affordable housing options for seasonal workers. Today there's a scarcity of options, and Merrill isn't a river guide at Western River Expeditions anymore — now he's CEO.

"No one is more surprised than I am that I am here," Merrill said with a laugh this spring, when he explained how he went from being a river guide to the company's CEO during a walking tour of the progress being made at the construction site for the new housing. "I never intended for the river to be my career."

Western River Expeditions has always provided housing for its seasonal workers who come to Moab to run the rivers in the summer. Not all of the guides need housing, Merrill said. Sometimes they live in their own personal camper or tent at campgrounds along the Colorado River, or they live in the back of their trucks. Merrill said that for the seasonal employees who need housing, though, it has always been in one of the company's trailers in Moab.

Merrill's career began there, and season after season, employees at the company continued to live in the same trailers that Merrill once lived in, but all of that will change this year when the new housing is completed.

"We're excited because for years we've provided housing for employees, but it's a little bit makeshift, it's old doublewide trailers

where we've put bunkbeds in the rooms," Merrill said. "It was alright, but this is going to be so much nicer."

As he toured the construction site, Merrill noted that the foundation had been poured, the walls were up and the builders were framing the inside with two-by-fours and nail guns to make individual rooms. Leading the construction are Craig Naylor and his father, Troy. It's the first time their company, Snake Creek Construction and Landscape, has built an affordable housing project in Moab.

Troy Naylor said that the project could house up to 64 of Western River Expeditions' seasonal employees. "There (also) are two gathering rooms, one for the men and one for the women, and there's a main gathering room with a kitchen in it that's shared," Naylor said.





GOOD FOR BUSINESS, AND FOR COMMUNITY

As he walked the length of the construction site, Merrill explained the reasoning behind the company's efforts to build new housing for its seasonal workers.

"For us, there's two things that motivate it," Merrill said. "One is just strictly a business need. I don't think that we could recruit and retain employees the way we do if we didn't provide a place for them to be. The other half of that equation is that we care about these people — and we want them to have a decent place to live."

Housing has increasingly become a challenge in Moab. Temporary moratoriums have been placed on new building applications for both the City of Moab and Grand County as officials discuss planning for the area, particularly in relation to affordable housing and overnight rentals. When there were a many housing units available in the 1980s, the economy in Moab was suffering.

"It was fairly soon after the uranium market went down, and there were a lot of places for sale and for rent in Moab, so you wouldn't have really foreseen this issue back then," Merrill said.

The site of the new Western River Expeditions' employee housing bunkhouse is a couple of miles south of Moab on South U.S. Highway 191, and features two new steel buildings. The old trailers where Merrill once lived are on Riversands Road, off 400 North.

The first of the two new buildings, the warehouse for river gear and equipment, can be seen on the east side of the highway just south



of Skyline Drive. Beyond the new warehouse is the other building — this will be the employees' "campus," as Merrill likes to call it.

The project has been in the works since 2018, although the motivation for the new campus has been years in the making.

"So many of the houses that river guides all used to pile into together and rent here in town are now in the overnight rental market and so they're not even available to them," Merrill said. "And historically, many guides were essentially homeless. They'd live in a tent out by the river and move every once in a while. We've always shied away from that just because we prefer the stability and we think it's worked out for us. Plus, it kind of creates a community for the guides who are living on campus."

The new housing for seasonal workers will be made available not only for river guides, but is also an option for the staff at the company's Moab Adventure Center retail store, as well as for tour drivers who are living in Moab seasonally.

"They all hang out together and it becomes a bit of a family atmosphere," Merrill said. "I think that's good for our employee morale too. For us, we think it's wise business."

Each room in the bunkhouse will have bunkbeds and storage space with lockers. The building will have laundry facilities, men's and women's bathrooms, a large kitchen area and a great room with couches, tables and TV.

"[Right now] it's just a big rectangle, but we're going to try to make it look nice on the inside

and hopefully like how it looks on the outside," Merrill said.

At the end of the building, he stopped at an empty door frame that will lead to an outdoor patio. Large windows were framed to bring plenty of natural light into the building.

"We find that in our current housing, most of the time in the evening they're all sitting out on the porch outside these trailers and they're playing guitars and hanging out and there's not much room for them there," Merrill said. So we're building a better space out here where they can hang out, and I think the way the sun goes down, this should be shaded up in the afternoon and maybe we'll put a little fire pit out here but it will be a nice place for them to be in the evening."

Opposite page, top: Western River Expeditions CEO Brian Merrill gives a tour in May of the new employee housing that his company is building in Moab. [Photo by Ashley Bunton]

Opposite page, bottom: Colorado River near Moab, UT [Photo by Steve Lagreca-adobestock.com] **Top:** The newly completed Western River Expeditions' employee housing building. [Photo by Ashley Bunton]

Bottom: Workers discuss construction plans at the site of Western River Expeditions future employee housing and equipment warehouse on Highway 191 south of Moab. [Photo by Ashley Bunton]



OUT WITH THE OLD

Merrill said the seasonal employees at Western River Expeditions are excited about the new housing — for the most part.

“Well, what’s funny is there’s mixed emotions,” Merrill said. “They’re all excited about it, but they sort of have an affection for the old trailers and the trailer life. I’ve heard some people lamenting, ‘Aww, will it be the same not living in the trailers?’ It was almost like a badge of honor living in those trailers. I’m sure they’ll get used to it and within a few years and with a little bit of turnover, they won’t even know about the way it used to be.”

Merrill said the “really old” trailers where the company’s seasonal employees have always lived have required extensive work over the years to maintain.

Providing employee housing for seasonal workers creates a better work environment at Western River Expeditions, Merrill continued.

“We liked having everybody around and the atmosphere that it created and it was easy to find the guides when you needed them because sometimes things come up last minute and you didn’t want to have to go searching for them up along the river,” Merrill said.

Other options are to look for rental houses, but current market prices aren’t affordable for many seasonal workers, Merrill said, adding that many landlords don’t want to rent to seasonal people.

Merrill said he hopes other business owners in Moab will start to view housing as a necessity for business.

“And if they can afford to do it, do it. But I would hate to see it become a requirement and then some businesses just wouldn’t be able to afford to do it,” he said.

Overall, he thinks employee housing will make business more successful.

“One of the things that limited our growth before is we didn’t have enough room for people,” he said.

Moab’s City Manager David Everitt, agrees with Merrill that the current housing available in Moab could be a constraining factor for local businesses that want to expand, and that more businesses could be faced with the prospect of providing housing.

“We’ve had a few employers over the years who have made the effort to provide housing for their employees and we definitely applaud Brian’s approach and his willingness to take ownership of the challenge,” Everitt said.

Merrill is looking ahead, beyond the current project, at another potential project. The company has four new trailers that he said could be potentially turned into employee housing for married couples.

“We’ve (also) talked about some affordable housing that’s available to more people, maybe some apartment buildings,” he said. “There’s a need for all of that in Moab — homes that can be owned that are affordable, and homes ... that can be rented that are affordable, but that are nice.”

Such a plan is “a little ways down the road,” Merrill said, but “we have the land and we thought that might be really a good use for it.”

ADAPTING TO GROWTH

Merrill said that Western River Expeditions has grown substantially, from having about 20 guides “back in the day” when he was guiding. Then, the company was taking about 3,000 people in a summer for whitewater rafting trips.

“Now we do closer to 12,000 people,” Merrill said.

The Moab Adventure Center is another significant piece of the company’s business. And in addition to whitewater rafting trips, the company offers Hummer tours, Arches National Park tours and climbing and canyoneering. It also sells trips that are operated by other guides and businesses in town, like mountain biking and horseback riding.

“Now we have close to 40 river guides and we have about 12 or 15 people that work for us in the store, and of course all the behind-the-scenes support staff — bus drivers and mechanics and people that help pack food and repair and maintain equipment — it’s a big operation,” Merrill said.

Many of the river guides are college students, Merrill said.

“They’re trying to save their money when they’re down here for the summer, so having affordable housing for them really helps with them being able to save for college,” Merrill said, who himself studied for an undergraduate degree when he was a guide.

Merrill said he then went on to law school in Maryland.

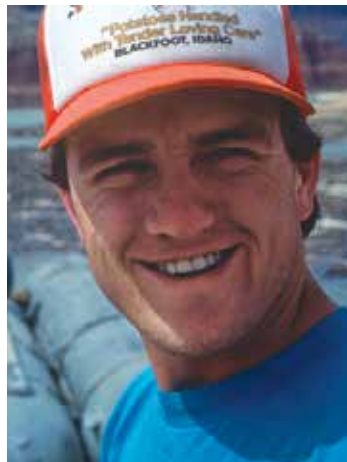
“After law school I started practicing with a firm in Albuquerque, New Mexico, so we came back out West, and then one day I decided I didn’t think I was going to be happy being a lawyer for the rest of my life, so I went looking for something else,” Merrill said.

In the end, it wasn’t that Merrill found “something else” to do instead of practice law — something else found him when he and his wife began to look for a company to buy without luck.

“When Western River Expeditions saw that we were serious about getting into the rafting business, they came and recruited us to come work for them,” Merrill said. “I said, I’ll give you two years and then we’re going to go do our own thing, and that was 27 years ago.”

Two years turned into nearly three decades, and Merrill has been the CEO since 2001.

“I’m still a little shocked, but it’s been great. It’s still growing and we love it,” he said. “This is one of those businesses that people feel passionate about.” ■



Top: Seasonal employees will soon move out of timeworn trailers used by the company for more than two decades on Riversands Drive in Moab. [Photo by Murice D. Miller] **Bottom left:** In addition to housing seasonal river guides, the new units may also provide residence for seasonal drivers working for the Moab Adventure Center. [Photo by Murice D. Miller] **Bottom right:** Brian Merrill, in 1984, guiding a Cataract Canyon trip on the Colorado River. [Courtesy photo]

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#1483912 / \$33,500

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#1586788 / \$150,000

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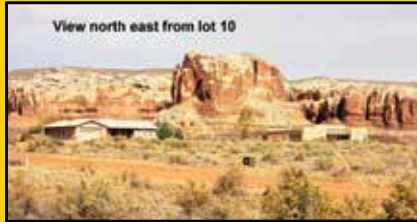
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#1575304 / \$55,000

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Lot 12 looking north east

#1575316 / \$60,000

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View South from lot 10, looking across lots 11-12

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#1593784 / \$2,250,000

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#1556734 / \$1,787,000

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#1542088 / \$397,500

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#1551102 / \$795,000

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#1587065 / \$475,000

Spacious & bright, 3 bed, 2 bath plus loft, vaulted ceiling living room with wood burning stove, nestled against P-J forest on shoulders of La Sals, stunning views over Canyonlands to the Abajos and Henrys.



#1583855 / \$207,000 / Monticello

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#1590071 / \$153,000

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#1581676 / \$1,650,000

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#1581677 / \$682,000

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#1587545 / \$498,000

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#1580850 / \$379,000

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#1524620 / \$325,000

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#1578218 / \$210,000

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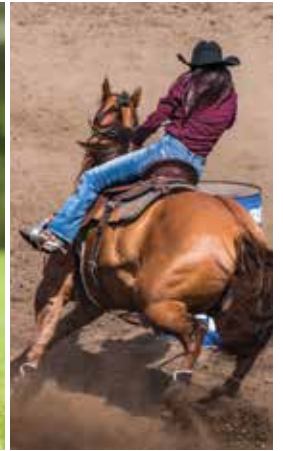


Kevin Fitzgerald
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435.260.9890
kevinfitzmoab@gmail.com



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Calendar of Events



May

14-18 Rally on the Rocks | rallyontherocks.com

16 Moab Information Center Lecture Series | Walt Dabney: History of US Public Lands | cnha.org/moab-information-center | 435-259-8825

18 Dead Horse Point State Park | Nocturnal Me full moon hike
stateparks.utah.gov/parks/dead-horse/events | 435-259-2614

19-24 Gone Moab | gonemoab.com

20 Dead Horse Point State Park | A Walk to Remember guided wildflower hike
stateparks.utah.gov/parks/dead-horse/events | 435-259-2614

23 Moab Information Center Lecture Series | Jody Patterson: How not to do Aerial Archeology | cnha.org/moab-information-center | 435-259-8825

25 Dead Horse Point State Park | Not So Junior Ranger Day
stateparks.utah.gov/parks/dead-horse/events | 435-259-2614

25-26 Moab Arts Festival | Swanny City Park
Moabartsfestival.org | 435-259-2742

30 Moab Information Center Lecture Series | Ashley Losey & Lori Hunsaker: Civilian Conservation Corp in the Moab area | cnha.org/moab-information-center | 435-259-8825

31 - 6/2 Canyonlands PRCA Rodeo | Old Spanish Trails Arena
info@MoabCanyonlandsRodeo.com

June

1 Dawg Days of Summer | Humane Society of Moab Valley
Old City Park | moabpets.org

1 Thelma and Louise Half Marathon | madmooseevents.com

7-8 Kokopelli Relay | Cycling Moab to St George | kokopellirelay.com

8 Moab Art Walk | moabartwalk.com

13 Moab Information Center Lecture Series | Brian Davis: Tiny Fossils and the Big Picture | cnha.org/moab-information-center | 435-259-8825

16-22 Desert RATS Kokopelli | Grand Junction to Moab
geminiaventures.com/desert-rats/

20 Moab Information Center Lecture Series
Robert J. Anderson: Founding Fathers - The Creation of Canyonlands NP
cnha.org/moab-information-center | 435-259-8825

27 Moab Information Center Lecture Series | Spencer Stokes: Dead Horse Point - Truth in the Name? | cnha.org/moab-information-center | 435-259-8825

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MOAB

County: Grand
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Elevation: 4,025 feet
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MOAB CITY NUMBERS

All Emergencies: 9-1-1
Police: 259-8938
Fire Dept.: 259-5557
City Hall: 259-5121
Post Office: 259-7427
Library: 259-1111
Chamber of Commerce: 259-7814
City Planning Dept.: 259-5129
City Recreation Dept.: 259-2255

GRAND COUNTY NUMBERS

Sheriff: 259-8115
Grand County School District: 259-5317
County Clerk (Voter Reg.): 259-1321
County Assessor: 259-1327
County Administrator's Office: 259-1346
County Recorder: 259-1332
County Treasurer: 259-1338
Building/Development Permits: 259-1343
Building Inspector: 259-1344
Economic Development: 259-1248
Travel Council: 259-1370
Recycling Center: 259-8640

UTILITY CONTACTS

City of Moab: 259-5121
Dominion Gas: 719-2491 or 719-2490
Rocky Mtn. Power: 888-221-7070
Grand Water & Sewer: 259-8121
Moab City Public Works: 259-7485
Monument Waste Services: 259-6314 / 7585
Frontier (Phone): 800-921-8101
Emery Telcom: 259-8521
Green Solutions: 259-1088
Amerigas Propane: 259-6756

MEDICAL AND DENTAL CONTACTS

Moab Regional Hospital: 719-3500
Moab Dental Health Center: 259-5378
Merrill Hugentobler, DDS: 259-7418
Arches Dental: 259-4333
Red Rock Dental: 259-4059
Moab Regional Health Center: 719-5500

TRANSPORTATION

Canyonlands Field Airport: 435-259-4849
United Airlines: www.united.com
Grand Junction Regional Airport:
www.gjairport.com
Amtrak/Green River: 800-872-7245
Greyhound Bus/Green River: 435-564-3421
Canyonlands Shuttle: 435-210-4757
Red Rock Express: 800-259-2869
Moab Taxi: 435-210-4297
Enterprise Car Rental: 435-259-8505
Arches Car Rental: 435-259-4959

UTAH STATE NUMBERS

Motor Vehicle Div: 259-3743
Drivers License Div: 259-3743
Hwy Patrol: 259-5441
Health Dept: 259-5602
Moab Employment Center: 719-2600
District Court: 259-1349

NAT'L & STATE PARKS & PUBLIC LANDS

Arches Nat'l Park: 719-2299
Canyonlands Nat'l Park: 719-2100
Dead Horse Point State Park: 259-2614
Bureau of Land Management: 259-2100
U.S Forest Service: 259-7155
To Report a Wildfire: 259-1850
Poaching Hotline: 800-662-3337

LOCAL SHUTTLES

Coyote: 259-8656
Porcupine Shuttle: 260-0896

CITY INFO:

Moab City: 259-5121
www.moabcity.org
Monticello: 587-2271
www.monticelloutah.org
Blanding: 678-2791
www.blandingutah.org

GRAND COUNTY

Building Inspector: 259-1344
Economic Development: 259-1248
Water and Sewer: 259-8121
Sanitarian: 259-5602
Assessor: 259-1327
www.grandcountyutah.net

SAN JUAN COUNTY

Building Inspector: 587-3225
Economic Development: 587-3235 x5006
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Sanitarian: 587-2021
Assessor: 587-3221

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Orkin Pest Control: 877-250-1652

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Farmers Insurance: 259-6192
Central Utah Insurance: 259-5981
Markle Insurance: 259-5241
State Farm Insurance: 259-5161

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Primary Residential Mortgage: 259-0259
www.primaryresidentialmortgage.com
Eastern Utah Comm. Credit Union: 259-8200
www.euccu.com
Mountain America Credit Union: 259-1500
www.macu.com
Zion's Bank: 259-5961
www.zionsbank.com
Wells Fargo Bank: 435-2708
www.wellsfargo.com

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