

Inside... The area's most complete real estate listings | Taking on invasive weeds | Women's biz center



In-town Location

MLS#1831576 | \$550,000

Arches Real Estate Group (See page 35)



The Space You Seek
MLS#1835018 | \$1,395,000
Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices (See page 4)



Excellent Home in a Great Location MLS#1834930 | \$715,000 Presidio Anasazi Realty Moab (See page 29)

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Top: In the aftermath of an August 20 flash flood, people turned out throughout Moab to help their friends, neighbors and businesses in the clean up efforts. [Photo by Josie Kovash]

Middle: Grand County Weed Department Technician Roger Stohlberg and Supervisor Elizabeth Weimholt. [Photo by Rachel Fixsen]

Bottom: Moab business owner and client of the Women's Business Center of Utah, Miray Diner. [Courtesy Women's Business Center of Utah]

Magazine front cover: Volunteers work to repair flood damage at Moab's Youth Garden Project. [Photo by Alison Harford/Moab Sun News]













FUNCTION AND ELEGANCE 4353 Blu Vista Drive 4 BD | 3.5 BA | 3,060 SF | .50 AC \$1,365,000 | MLS 1835018

From top to bottom this home offers you the functional space we all crave and the elegance we all desire. The chef's kitchen is sure to impress with dual wall oven, granite counter tops, overly generous workspace, shiny stainless-steel appliances, and high-top bar seating. Exceptional 3 car garage and 3 bay shop. The space you seek, the style you deserve, in the adventure town you love! Rachel Moody (435) 260-8245

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If you are looking to experience relaxation and extravagance look no further. R3 Casita at The Portal in Moab Utah will have you at hello with every high end luxury upgrade you can possibly imagine. R3 is booked regularly. This home comes completely furnished.

Ebbi Hafen (435) 899-0368 / Rachel Moody (435) 260-8245



This beautifully maintained luxury townhouse is in the Entrada at Moab nightly rental complex, located within blocks of Moab's downtown and a quick drive to some of Moab's most famous trails, yet feels private and tucked away. Entrada is waiting for you!

Suzanna Feuz (435) 260-7634 / Rachel Moody Team (435) 260-8240





CREEK-SIDE SETTING

125 Arbor Drive 3 BD | 2 BA | 1,646 SF | .50 AC \$875,000 | MLS 1838304 With enormous Cottonwood trees and ample privacy, this welcoming brick rambler is ready for you to move in and relax. A one level floor plan offers a spacious living area with an open kitchen with granite countertops, dining room with patio access, and formal living room.

Rachel Moody Team (435) 260-8240

50 East Center Street Moab, Utah







This wonderful corner unit is tucked into the Rim Vistas complex for ultimate privacy. Great views of the surrounding red rocks and La Sal Mountain peaks, right from your living room windows. Great patio with private hot tub, this townhome has overnight rental zoning and is ready for you!

Rachel Moody Team (435) 260-8240



This beautiful single-level townhome has great repeat rentals, sleeps 8, and is decorated with great southwestern flair and custom log furniture. All of the all the furnishings, electronics, dishware, and decor are included so you can continue renting your nightly rental investment.

Rachel Moody Team (435) 260-8240



This exceptional townhome has the vast Mountain views to feed your spirit on any occasion. Adorned with multiple upgrades including sliding glass doors from the main bedroom suite to the over-sized patio, offering plenty of seating to gather with all your fellow adventurers.

Rachel Moody Team (435) 260-8240



Escape to your own Moab adventure, with this popular, beautiful turn-key vacation rental townhome! A one of kind in the Rim Village complex, this unit features an oversized courtyard patio with exceptional views facing the La Sal Mountains, room for a hot tub, and plenty of space to BBQ and gather.

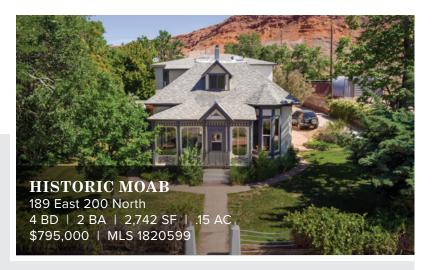
Nikole Andersen (801) 750-5280 / Rachel Moody Team (435) 260-8240

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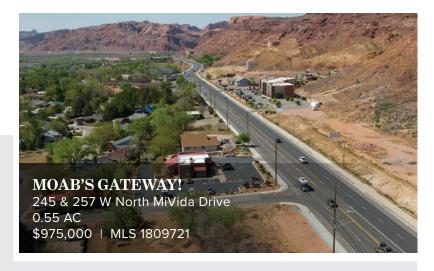


Absolutely charming 1906 classic with a fabulous location in the heart of downtown! This 4 bed, 2 bath home features excellent living space and a wonderfully done renovation! Beautiful landscaping for an in-town setting that also offers a feeling of the natural world.

Jessiqua Zufelt (435) 210-1171



This rare, extreme view lot in coveted Kayenta Heights has 2.5 acres of pristine land ready for your exceptional private estate. Sweeping panoramas from the red rock fins of upper Mill Creek Canyon, peak to peak of the La Sal Mountains, to the towering Moab Rim, back to the Colorado River Portal. Rachel Moody Team (435) 260-8240



High profile location on the northern gateway of Moab's Main Street offering 130 feet of Main Street frontage and 175 feet of additional frontage on North MiVida Drive. This .55 acre enjoys a rare corner location a few miles from Arches National Park and is zoned for a wide variety of uses. Rachel Moody Team (435) 260-8240



Nostalgic style with modern finish and spacious single level living. Bright clerestory windows of the gorgeous living area capture attention, alongside the warm gas log fireplace surrounded by stacked rock and stone hearth. This mid-century modern architecture is ready to be your Moab home. Rachel Moody Team (435) 260-8240

50 East Center Street Moab, Utah







Stop and smell the roses as they welcome you to your perfect little house, with the perfect little yard in the perfect little neighborhood. This adorable brick and stucco rambler is located on a .23 acre parcel in a quite cul-de-sac inside Moab City limits.

Rachel Moody Team (435) 260-8240



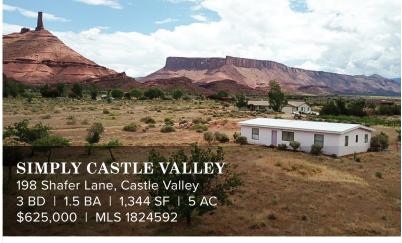
Nestled in the spectacular spires and cliffs of Castle Valley outside Moab, this artful adobe is a wonder of light and space. Picture windows and skylights throughout this house let in natural light. Kitchen and bath were just remodeled. There are new floors, a washer/dryer, and good water.

Nikole Andersen (801) 750-5280 / Rachel Moody Team (435) 260-8240



Great vacation town home zoned for nightly rentals! Strategically located, the Solano Vallejo Villas are nestled in the stunning red rock landscape close to the golf course, Arches National Park, Canyonlands, Dead Horse Point, and Slick Rock Trail.

Shannon Meredith (435) 260-7484



Situated on the Valley floor for spectacular 360° views, this simple home is the perfect place to land. The valley floor has a flat topography allowing a full 5 acres of usable land. This property offers a root cellar, storage shed, mature trees, established well, and tons of potential.

Nikole Andersen (801) 750-5280 / Rachel Moody Team (435) 260-8240

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With an inviting open floor plan and classy finishes, this home features: custom cabinetry, solid surface countertops, walk-in pantry, stone fireplace, wood floors, surround sound system, large walk-in closet, RV parking, and a peaceful fenced backyard. This property is a must-see! Shannon Meredith 435-260-7484



You'll love this move in ready home situated at the end of the Huntridge cul-de-sac located within walking distance to down town Moab as well as the Pipe Dream hiking and bike trail. This home features 3 beds, 2 baths, new flooring throughout, and newly updated SmartSide siding. Reina Every (435) 260-1542



This home features four bedrooms, two full bathrooms, a spacious great room, a formal living room with a beautiful wood burning fireplace. Spacious master bedroom with large full bathroom and soaker tub. Minutes from downtown Moab, it sits on a quiet street with spectacular views.

Nikole Andersen (801) 750-5280



Adorable in town home on a fully landscaped lot with a fabulous fenced back yard and bonus RV parking! This home is move-in ready with fresh paint, and a convenient setting off 400 East in the end of a cul de sac. Superb indoor/outdoor living!

Jessiqua Zufelt (435) 210-1171

50 East Center Street Moab, Utah







CASTLE VALLEY VIEWS 439 Castle Valley Drive | 4.88 AC \$349,000 | MLS 1824479 Nikole Andersen (801) 750-5280



PACK CREEK ESTATE SITE 525 E Pack Creek Road | 11.18 AC \$349,000 | MLS 1657922 Rachel Moody Team (435) 260-8240



PORTAL RV RESORT LOT M17 \$295,000 | MLS 1808245 | .08 AC Ebbi Hafen (435) 899-0368 Rachel Moody (435) 260-8245



PORTAL RV RESORT LOT M19
1261 North Main Rubicon Trail | .08 AC
\$275,000 | MLS 1809404
Rachel Moody Team (435) 260-8240



WHITE HORSE 33 4122 Lipizzan Jump | .50 AC \$249,000 | MLS 1838551 Rachel Moody Team (435) 260-8240



BRUMLEY RIDGE RANCH \$235,000 per lot | 3.59 AC - 5.43 AC Rachel Moody Team (435) 260-8240 Nikole Andersen (801) 750-5280



VIEWS NESTLED IN SANDSTONE

117 Flat Iron Mesa Road | 7.26 AC

\$199,999 | MLS 1827505

Nikole Andersen (801) 750-5280



CUSTOM CABIN LOT-PEAK VIEWS
10 N Hoolihan Road | 7 AC
\$168,000 | MLS 1702713
Rachel Moody Team (435) 260-8240



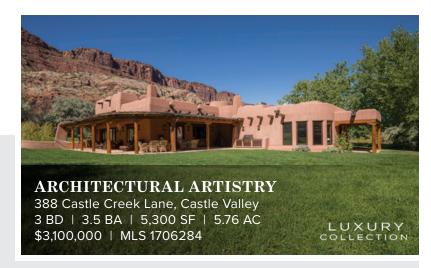
BIG ABAJO VIEWS – 10 LOTS Elk Meadows Lots | 6 - 8 AC \$64,000 - \$79,000 Nikole Andersen (801) 750-5280 Rachel Moody Team (435) 260-8240

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Exquisite home in Castle Valley. Peaceful and private, this property is an inspiring and comfortable haven. The exterior of this home is meant to blend in with the gorgeous surroundings while the inside delights with endless artistic touches. Spectacular views from every room.

Angela Houghton (435) 260-0700



Enjoy quiet, country living in this energy-efficient designed home. Plenty of space for a barndominium for your guests or a toy barn to house all-terrain vehicles and equipment or subdivide the land. So many possibilities! Lynda Diem (435) 260-9244 / Kim Kirks (801) 369-9184



This home checks all the boxes. From soft-close cupboards to completely new carpeting, paint, and all included appliances, you will find this location is move-in ready with all the amenities. The lot includes nearly ½ acre of open space, RV parking and plenty of room to park toys. Jake Zufelt (435) 260-8352



Modern kitchen with granite countertops, tile backsplash and bar seating overlooking the dining and living room; creating a central gathering place in the home. An inviting and private breakfast nook with big views borders the kitchen. Unforgettable views! Lynda Diem (435) 260-9244

50 East Center Street Moab, Utah





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Located on one acre in a cul-de-sac, this well-loved home would make a wonderful primary or secondary residence. The common space has an easeful flow from the entrance to the backyard and patio. Plentiful water is available to maintain a lush landscape.

Angela Houghton (435) 260-0700 / Nikole Andersen (801) 750-5280



Enjoy magnificent views of Castleton Tower, the La Sal Mountains, and the mesa. Irrigation water flows to support large trees that shelter the property from the road but not the views. Don't miss this awesome opportunity to invest in one of the most beautiful valleys on Earth.

Angela Houghton (435) 260-0700



MOAB OVERNIGHT RENTAL

2511 Redcliff Road Unit E 1-A MLS 1809977 3 BD \mid 2 BA \mid 1,384 SF \mid \$580,000 Lynda Diem (435) 260-9244



SPACIOUS MONTICELLO HOME

80 South 200 East, Monticello MLS 1826878 4 BD | 3 BA | 2,834 SF | .19 AC | \$475,000 Nikole Andersen (801) 750-5280 Janet Thomas (435) 760-0316



DARLING BLANDING HOME

390 West 400 South, Blanding MLS 1821732 4 BD | 1.5 BA | 1,808 SF | .26 AC | \$225,000 Nikole Andersen (801) 750-5280 Janet Thomas (435) 760-0316

VACANT LAND

HUGE LASAL & RIM VIEWS

3278 E Brooks Drive | 0.21 AC | \$175,000 | MLS 1790763 Lynda Diem (435) 260-9244



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AFTER MAJOR FLOOD, MOAB BOUNCES BACK

Community shows its resilience after 100-year event tore through town

Written by Emily Arntsen

O ONE WOULD EVER GUESS THAT ONLY TEN DAYS EARLIER, DEWEY'S RESTAURANT AND BAR WAS SWAMPED WITH 17 INCHES OF WATER, BASED ON THE COMPLETELY ORDINARY LUNCH SCENE TAKING PLACE ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, THE BUSINESS'S FIRST DAY BACK SINCE A MASSIVE FLOOD SWEPT THROUGH MOAB ON AUG. 20.



Opposite page: Just ten days after a flash flood inundated his restaurant with more than a foot of water, Dewey's co-owner Mike Miller stands in front of his cleaned and repaired business, ready to welcome a lunch crowd. [Photo by Emily Arntsen] Above: Employees at Dewey's scramble to close down the bar as water fills the restaurant on August 20. [Photo by Scott Griffiths]



Dewey's co-owner Ben Byrd stands in the flooded entryway of the restaurant. [Photo by Scott Griffiths]

"This is pretty typical," Dewey's owner Michael Miller said as he looked around at the midday crowd. "For the most part, things are back to normal." His tone was surprisingly casual considering he recently had to use heavy equipment to remove a four-inch-thick layer of creek silt from his 9,100-squarefoot restaurant.

On the evening of Aug. 20, intense monsoon rains deluged the watershed of Mill Creek, a typically inches-deep waterway that runs throughout some of the most populated parts of town. Water levels rose to almost 16 feet and hundreds of feet wide in places. At the bridge on 300 South, flood debris blocked the creek's flow beneath the bridge, and the flood surged up and into the street. Main Street, 100 West, and the Mill Creek Parkway bore the brunt of the damage, which city officials estimate will cost millions of dollars to repair. Many local homes, businesses and recreation areas sustained major damage.

At Dewey's, which sits just off of Main Street and adjacent to 100 West, Miller estimates he suffered \$200,000 in damage and losses during the 10-day closure that followed the flood. During the initial surge, Miller said he lost about \$10,000 worth of food due to water contamination in less than 20 minutes.

The Saturday night crowd was about 60 people strong at Dewey's on the night of the flood. "We always get a lot of people in here when it rains, people looking to escape the weather," he said.

Unfortunately, those people came to the wrong place, he said — since everyone had about five minutes to get out of the building before water started pouring in through a hole in the back wall of the kitchen. "Some people got wet," he said. "One guy wanted to finish his meal, so I let him. I have a video of him sitting there in 17 inches of water, eating his dinner, perfectly calm, with a cooler floating by in the water."

Miller said the restaurant's insurance will not cover flood damage, which is typical for most commercial insurance agreements. Despite the recent destruction, however, Miller has no plan to invest in flood insurance in the future.

"I've lived here 20 years, and I've never seen anything like that," he said of the deluge that experts are calling a 100-year flood. Apparently, he's willing to risk those odds, though he said he will consider investing in business interruption insurance for the future.

"It was tough on my employees," he said, referring to the 10-day closure. "I paid them to come clean up, but it wasn't the usual hours and wages they were used to."

Miller is also grateful for the support of volunteers from the community who made themselves available to help in the days after the flood. "We had about 30 volunteers show up on Sunday, and we've had a ton of support from the community," he said.

The city and Grand County declared a state of emergency the day after the flood, which means that residential properties and businesses in Moab and surrounding areas could be eligible for financial aid from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. An application for emergency funding is pending.

Additionally, on Aug. 30, the Grand County Commission approved a flood relief grant program that will allocate a total of \$250,000 — up to \$20,000 per business or nonprofit — for establishments that were significantly affected by the disaster.

"We are grateful for the support from many, including the Utah Office of Tourism, the Utah Tourism Industry Association, and the countless number of people who have voiced their concern and love for our community," said August Granath, Grand County's economic development director, in a press release. "We are #MoabStrong, resilient, and open for business."

Miller is hopeful that he will receive emergency relief funds from the city and the county, and though his business suffered major losses, he's optimistic about the future, especially with tourist season right around the corner.

"We're only two years old. We're still growing, but we can bounce back from this," he said. "September, October and November are always busy. We'll be fine."



Normally 10 to 20 feet wide and a few inches deep, Mill Creek quickly grew to hundreds of feet wide, with a streamflow of several thousand cubic feet per second. A wide, freshly scoured channel is seen here near 500 West in Moab days after the flood. [Photo by Andrew Mirrington]



Moab Charter School Students help clean up the Youth Garden Project. [Photo by Katy Robertson]



Located almost directly in the path of the floodwaters, Mill Creek Animal Hospital is seen here with a large volume of debris deposited on the south side of its property.



Up the Creek Campground was was devastated by the flood which occurred just after sunset. Some sleeping campers made a narrow escape due to the quick action of the campground owners. [Photo by Sarah Barstow]



Pasta Jay's Jorge Lopez removed silt from in front of the downtown restaurant. [Photo by Murice D. Miller]



Volunteers help clean up a property in the Mulberry Grove neighborhood along Mill Creek. [Photo courtesy of Erin Groves]



A battered picnic table and other flood debris are seen pushed forcefully against a tree. [Photo by Ariel Atkins-Woodford]



A tangle of branches and mud damaged the bridge railing on 300 South. [Photo by Josie Kovash]

Using heavy equipment, a city worker moves large amounts of sand and mud from the Mill Creek Parkway. [Photo by Murice D. Miller]



A street-sweeper truck cleans a downtown Moab street. [Photo by Murice D. Miller]



A deep layer of sand and mud is seen left behind on the bike skills course at the Robin Groff Memorial Park. Volunteers would soon descend on the park to clean and repair it. [Photo by Josie Kovash]



Along the damaged Mill Creek waterfall trail, Willow saplings (left side of photo) planted by Moab's TerraSophia were temporarily flattened, but the hardy plants will rebound and help maintain the integrity of streambanks and keep hikers on the trail. [Photo by Emily Arntsen]

REBUILDING A BETTER MILL CREEK WATERFALL TRAIL COULD BE A SILVER LINING OF THE FLOOD

Mill Creek Waterfall Trail, one of the most popular hiking trails in Moab outside of the national parks, is nearly unrecognizable after the recent flood.

"The entire landscape is different," said Sara Melnicoff, a Moab resident who has spent "pretty much every day since 2003" at Mill Creek working to maintain the trail. Melnicoff, who is also the founder of the housing and environmental nonprofit Moab Solutions, partners with the Bureau of Land Management to steward the land and manage the trail.

Right now, Melnicoff said her main priority is to clear the debris from what is left of the trail and make it as safe as possible for hikers. "There are these big holes and crevices in some places. It could be kind of dangerous," she said. "Tourists are showing up and getting lost because the trail isn't clear."

The pool underneath the waterfall was deepened during the flood, which Melnicoff said has led to more people jumping from the ledge into the pool. "You just have to tuck your legs so you don't touch the bottom too hard," said one visitor who had made the plunge. "I'd say it's about 10 feet deep in the middle."

The trail was, until recently, a well kept local secret, and its growing popularity has become controversial in town. A huge spike in visitors in the past three years has led to increased off-trail hiking or "social trailing."

To reduce the amount of social trailing, a practice that tramples plants and causes erosion, the BLM has worked with TerraSophia, a local landscaping firm, for the past five years to restore the trail. Last fall, the TerraSophia team, led by Jeff Adams, planted 550 willows at the confluence where the canyon forks to redirect hikers toward the proper path.

Despite the recent torrent that ripped through the canyon, most of the young willows are still alive, albeit somewhat horizontal from the force of the water. Though the willows look a little worse for wear, it's clear that, had they not been planted last fall, the banks of the creek at the confluence would have been completely washed away. "People look at me like I'm crazy when I tell them not to step through the willows. Meanwhile, the whole place is a mess," Melnicoff said.

Though the flood caused massive changes to the layout of the canyon, Melnicoff can see a silver lining. "Maybe now is a good opportunity to make the trail better and more clear from the parking lot to the waterfall," she said. "That's always been my goal." ■



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This beautifully remodeled single-level home is located in one of the nicest neighborhoods in town, literally a golf cart ride away from the local course and right at the trailhead of scenic red rock hikes. The big windows and skylights bring in lots of natural light. A fluid floor plan features an oversized master bedroom with spacious en suite bathroom. The kitchen and dining area with direct access to the patio is an ideal space for entertaining. A nicely landscaped yard features a saguaro cactus, maybe the only one in Moab. Enjoy great views of the Moab Rim and the red rocks of Mill Creek Canyon.

Don't just look for a place. Discover a home.





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108 Pace Lane, Castle Valley, Utah

2 BD | 1 BA | 1,371 SF | 4.62 AC | \$824,000

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LOCATED IN THE UPPER EIGHTY 363 Castle Valley Drive 5.06 AC | \$290,000

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652 West 470 North, Moab, Utah

4 BD | 3 BA | 2,265 SF | 0.03 AC | \$1,300,000







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42 W Troutt Trail, Moab, Utah 3 BD | 4 BA | 3,250 SF | 1 AC | \$1,200,000 VACATION RENTAL AT ENTRADA

665 West 470 North, Moab, Utah

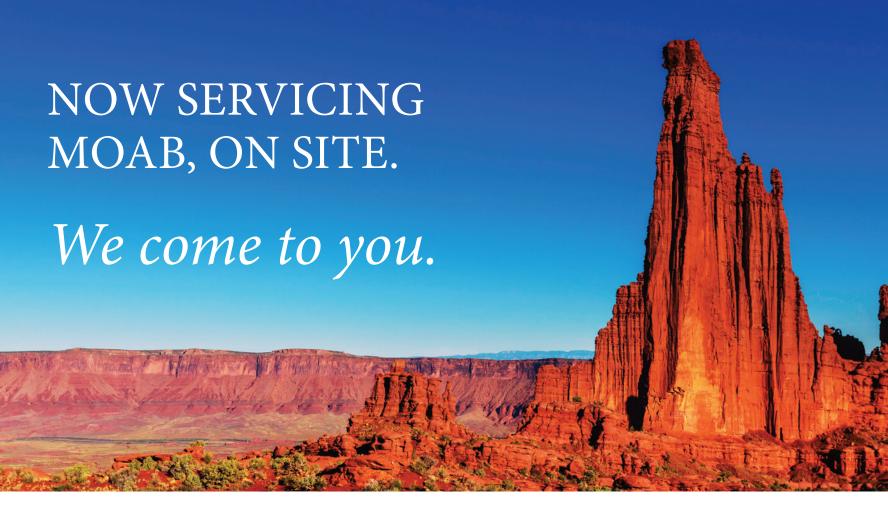
4 BD | 3 BA | 2,265 SF | 0.04 AC | \$975,000



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NIGHTLY RENTAL PROPERTIES!



ENTRADA AT MOAB – Corner Unit! Beautiful turnkey nightly rental. Rents very well & has back to back bookings. Features spacious open layout, big windows, high ceilings & a roomy interior. 4B/3B, 2261 sq.ft. \$1,150,000. (#1808001) CALL SUE



POOL SIDE, ground floor condo available as a NIGHTLY RENTAL. 3B/2B, 1384 sq.ft. custom painted & full furnished. TURNKEY: all furnishings & electronics, bedding, dishes come with the unit to start your stay off right. \$580,000. (#1800117) **CALL KRISTIE**



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HOME & TRAILER PARK in Green River on 1.22 acres. Main home is 3B/1.5B, 1316 sq.ft. with large site-built addition. Gathering room built in 1998 as well as a 2 car garage with storage. Three rented mobile home spaces included. \$275,000. (#1817908) CALL KRISTIE



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MOVE IN READY HOME. Beautifully landscaped. 5B/3B, 2392 sq.ft within walking distance to downtown. This home offers updated kitchen and bathrooms, huge pantry, oversized Garage with workshop and tons of storage. MUST SEE! \$715,000. (#1834930)



WEED WARRIORS

County workers and local citizens taking steps to combat invasive plants that wipe out native plants and choke waterways

Written by Rachel Fixsen

N A WARM AUGUST DAY, THE GRAND COUNTY WEED DEPARTMENT—WHICH AT THE MOMENT IS JUST SUPERVISOR ELIZABETH WEIMHOLT AND TECHNICIAN ROGER STOHLBERG—ARRIVE AT THE POWERDAM TRAILHEAD TO HIKE UP THE RIGHT FORK OF MILL CREEK CANYON LOOKING FOR RAVENNA GRASS.

"We're finding it everywhere in this canyon, and we're getting a little nervous," Weimholt says.

The tall grass is native to southern Europe, and was brought to North America as an ornamental plant. It grows in large clumps, often more than 10 feet tall, and has attractive fluffy seed heads. It also spreads aggressively along creek beds and other riparian habitats, out-competing native species.

Ravenna grass—Tripidium ravennae—is listed as a Class 4 noxious weed in Grand County, meaning it's prohibited to buy, sell, or propagate the plant. Still, it remains a somewhat common landscaping choice in area properties. People may not know it's invasive—it's not considered a noxious weed in neighboring Mesa County, Colorado—and it looks similar to some other less invasive ornamental grasses.



Trying to educate the public about invasives like ravenna grass, and suppressing or eradicating them where possible, is the mission of the Grand County Weed Department. The crew partners with many other organizations in its efforts. Few workdays look alike: one day they may be helping the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands reduce wildfire fuels; another day they might raft a section of the Colorado or Green river to access areas where invasives have spread; another day will find them making contacts with homeowners to discuss invasives. Sometimes the crew uses herbicide to treat invasives; other situations call for shovels and manual labor. Other days they're mapping, reporting, or writing grants. The department is funded by a mix of grants, contract agreements with partnering organizations, and county funding.

At Mill Creek, Weimholt and Stohlberg bring garden clippers to lop off any mature seedheads of ravenna grass they find, and a plastic bucket to carry the seeds out of the canyon for disposal. The department encourages property owners with ravenna grass in their landscaping to get rid of it—the department will remove the plant at no charge, and there are vouchers for local nurseries available so property owners can purchase a new plant. Weimholt recommends a native, like dropseed grass. Short of removing ravenna grass from properties, Weimholt says clipping the seed heads can go a long way toward reducing the spread of the plant.



Weimholt also takes GPS locations for the plants they find, so they can log them into a national database and come back to remove them later. Removal will take a lot of work. Over years, ravenna grass can grow into a dense clump, up to six feet across at the base, with tenacious roots.

Ravenna grass is just one on a list of plants identified by the state and the county as noxious weeds. Species are grouped according to the urgency of response required. Top priority, Class 1A species are categorized as "Early Detection Rapid Response" plants. In 2021, for example, surveyors at an former oil well pad near Highway 313 found an African rue plant, a fleshy shrub with a five-petaled white flower and a woody root system which is listed as a Class 1A species on the state noxious weed list. It was the first known instance of the plant in Utah, and the Grand County crew has been treating it since it was found. They use herbicide to kill the root structure, as mechanical removal might not be as effective, since the plant could regrow from even a tiny root fragment left behind.



Opposite page: Grand County Weed Supervisor Elizabeth Weimholt wields a pickaxe as she works to remove a stubborn ravenna grass clump from the banks of Mill Creek near Moab in August. [Photo by Murice D. Miller] This page: Grand County Weed Technician Roger Stohlberg and Supervisor Elizabeth Weimholt working in Mill Creek Canyon. [Top photo by Murice D. Miller, bottom photo by Rachel Fixsen]

TWO FOUR-LETTER WORDS: "GOAT" AND "HEAD"

More familiar to many as an unwanted plant is Tribulus terrestris, or goathead, which is one of the department's top priorities in the late summer and early fall.

"There's a lot more hatred for them," Weimholt points out of the spiky, bike-tireflattening plant that's also known, appropriately, as puncturevine, for it ability to puncture tires. She's working to steer that hatred into action: last year the department hosted its first annual Goathead Gala, where community members could win prizes for pulling the most goatheads.

A feisty Facebook page called Moab Goatheads Gone offers a place for weed warriors to commiserate, share tips and tools, and coordinate eradication efforts. The page's banner is an image of the unassuming goathead plant as a small green sprout, before its seeds dry and harden into the painful and damaging thorns that generate strong feelings about this invasive plant.



Ravenna grass [JC Raulston Arboretum]



Goathead plant [Stan Shebs]



African rue flower [Wikimedia Commons]



African rue [University of California photo]



Giant reed flower
[David J. Moorhead-University of Georgia]



Houndstongue [Bernd Haynold]



Moab local Randall Lewis founded the group. He's especially active in pulling goatheads.

"I first discovered goatheads when I moved to St. George thirty years ago," Lewis recalls. A dedicated biker, he was shocked at the frequency of flat tires he got around town. He switched to using tubeless tires, which immediately fill in puncture holes with "slime" kept in the tire. About five years ago, he took his kids to ride bikes in St. George and watched with a sense of deja-vu as his daughter pulled her bike just off the paved path with a nearly immediate flat tire.

"I was like, 'Oh no!' It was her first ride in St. George with that bike," Lewis says.

When he and his family recently moved back to Moab, Lewis got serious about tackling goatheads. He learned to identify the plant and pulled them from his own property, from sidewalks, from the Mill Creek Parkway, from the Anonymous Bike Park, and from trails—he started bringing a trash bag with him on trail runs and weeding along the way. He noticed that the plants proliferate most in areas with high foot traffic; he made sure to check his shoes and remove any seeds stuck to them to avoid inadvertently spreading the plant. He recruited others, including his family members, to join the effort.

"All in all, I think me and my family put in over 200 hours last season," Lewis says.

Goatheads are annuals, so if they're properly pulled out they won't come back. The seeds can last for several years, so an area must be weeded for several seasons in a row to thoroughly remove a patch. Lewis is optimistic. He's familiar with the feeling of dread and hopelessness that a large patch of goatheads can inspire in someone determined to pull them out—but once you get started, he says, it's not as bad as you expect. Especially if the plants are small, hundreds can be pulled in just a few minutes—and the more people participate, the more successful the effort will be.

"It's clearly made a huge difference," he says. "We're winning the battle in a couple areas."

Lewis was pulling goatheads on the Mill Creek Parkway one day in 2021 when the weed department's Weimholt walked by, and they struck up a conversation. Weimholt had been considering creating some kind of event to promote community participation in goathead suppression, and when she met Lewis she knew there would be community support for it. The first Goathead Gala came together that year. This year, the department expanded the Gala to four Saturdays in August and September, where people can bring their slain goatheads to the Community Recycle Center to be weighed. Local businesses like the Moonflower Community Cooperative, Moab Cyclery, and Wildland Scapes have contributed to a prize pool for the most goatheads pulled. A potluck follows some of the Gala days. Weimholt said about ten people showed up to the first event, and they disposed of about 600 pounds of the noxious weeds.

"My dream is for it to be as big as in Boise," says Weimholt. "They have a whole goathead festival."

The annual Boise Goathead Fest is a weekslong volunteer push to suppress goatheads, culminating in an all-day celebration with a bike parade, live music, games and beer.

THE LIST GOES ON

Goatheads may be one of the most notorious noxious weeds, but they're just one of many, and they're only listed as a Class 3, with a mandate to contain them. Other familiar weeds like Russian olive (Class 4) and tamarisk (Class 3) also demand attention from the weed department. Weimholt mentions giant reed, Russian knapweed (especially on the river corridor) and purple loosestrife (Class 2: Control) as other species they keep a lookout for.

Vigilance for invasive plants can cast a neighborhood or a popular trail in a whole new light. Stohlberg compared it to a scavenger hunt: the search for weeds brings him and Weimholt to remote corners of the county, and calls for a unique kind of observation in familiar areas.

On the hike up the right fork of Mill Creek, Weimholt and Stohlberg aren't just looking for ravenna grass—they're on the hunt for houndstongue (Cynoglossum officianale), a Class 3 weed that until recently had only been seen in the Book Cliffs area of the county. They've heard there's a patch getting established in Mill Creek Canyon.

Weimholt explains that plants are listed as weeds for different reasons, usually because they're somehow disruptive to human activities. Some are toxic to wildlife or threaten agriculture or fragile native ecosystems. Houndstongue, for example, is toxic to wildlife, and it produces numerous burs that stick to clothing and pet fur.

"Not everything that's non-native is noxious," Weimholt notes.

Human activity and natural phenomena have always allowed plants to move from place to place; species often adapt well in locations at latitudes similar to their native habitats, where the climate is likely comparable, Weimholt said. Stohlberg said invasives often fall into one of two categories: either people imported them because they're pretty—or they're "really sticky," like a goathead seed, and they hitched a ride to a new habitat.

In the absence of the predators and competitors they evolved alongside, non-native plants can sometimes outcompete natives and upset the ecosystem. When a plant becomes problematic, experts consider listing it as a noxious weed.

Managing invasives throughout the county is a big task for such a small department they'd like to hire several more people—but both Weimholt and Stohlberg said they enjoy their jobs. Stohlberg, who's been on the crew for about a year, came from a conservation corps crew, and prioritizes being outdoors and avoiding the desk life. Weimholt has been with the department for four years, and supervisor for about a year. Along with being outdoors, she said, she wanted to do something meaningful, and she finds that meaning in her work with the weed department.

Weimholt said the department welcomes involvement and community feedback questions and ideas can be sent to eweimholt@ grandcountyutah.net. ■



Opposite page: Randall Lewis has been on a yearslong quest to remove troublesome goathead plants. He and his kids are pictured here with a contraption he calls the "goathead gobbler" that picks up the plant's thorns, notorious for puncturing tires. [Photo courtesy Randall Lewis] This page: Grand County Weed Supervisor Elizabeth Weimholt shows a ravenna clump she removed by the roots, in order to prevent it from growing back. [Photo by Murice D. Miller]



Purple loosestrife [Wikimedia Commons/Ivar Leidus]



Russian olive [Wikimedia Commons/Walter Siegmund]



Tamarix [Wikimedia Commons/Jerzy Opiola]



Goathead thorn [Stan Shebs]



Russian knapweed [Utah State University/Steve Dewey/]



Giant reed [Utah Weed Supervisors Association]

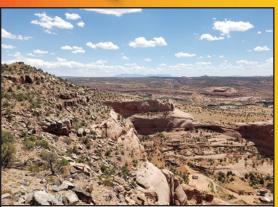


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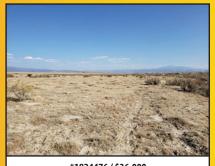
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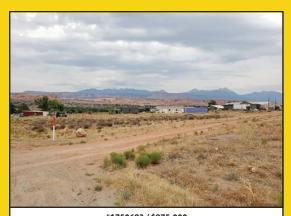


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All utilities available. Bring your plans and build your dream property.
Does include the building.



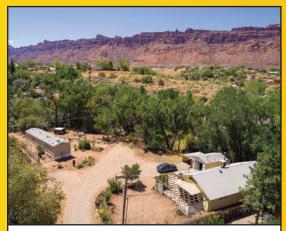
#1807870 / \$1,600,000 / Eklectica
One of the locals' & tourists' favorite places to eat in Moab.
0.50 acre with parking, a rental property building, zoned C3.
So many possibilities with this parcel on the main street.
Close to name brand Hotels & other retail businesses in the area.
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70.24 Acres in beautiful Thompson Canyon. Own your canyon just outside of Moab. Well maintained county road to the property. Enjoy exploring Indian writing, hidden arches & natural bridges.



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1.29 acres in the S.E. ¼ S.E. ¼ Sec. 17-32S-24E off of Peter Springs Rd. (CR 331) and North on CR 320 for 1 mile in San Juan Cnty.. Adjacent properties have water wells at 180 ft. deep. Power in close proximity. MLS # 1835044, Price: \$35,000 with possible seller financing. Call Janie 435-260-1572



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MLS #1791827. Call Janie 435-260-1572



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Easy to access with water and power. Close to border of Colorado with views of La Sal and San Juan mountains. Add'l lots available. Wray Mesa Rd. MLS #1791686, 2.59 acres, \$125,000. MLS #1793901, 2.59 acres, \$127,000. Call Billy 812-260-3302



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(1.84 acres) on quiet street with views of LaSal Mountains and Abajo Mountains. 200 ft. of frontage on 100 North St., and depth of 400 ft.. Walking distance to Maverik and Monticello Library. Utilities in Street. \$160,000. MLS #1792568. Call Janie 435-260-1572



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MLS #1817245. \$650,000. **Call Janie 435-260-1572 for showing.**



This property is 1.04 acres, one half is zoned RR (Rural Residential) and the other half Highway Commercial (HC). Highway Commercial zone allows 18 units per acre. 10 housing units could be built with the existing zoning. Or one could apply for the High-Density Overlay zone. MLS #1813859. \$575,000. Call Preston 435-260-1701



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Exquisite Mountain Properties in Old La Sal

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Downtown Updated Manufactured Home with Huge Garage on .37 Acres

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The Donut Shop

Profitable downtown Moab classic donut shop. Great small business with a track record and business plan to get started right. Has hood, oven, trap, prep space and more. Training, permits and supplies included. Lease negotiable. MLS #1836693. \$184,000. Call Billy 812-360-3302



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And on September 13, Thomas was honored with the Southern Utah Entrepreneur of the Year award at the "Exploring Possibilities" WBCUtah conference in Cedar City. "I was not expecting it; it was an awesome surprise," says Thomas. The conference is a fundraising and networking event for WBCUtah's southern branch, where sessions on leadership and management skills are taught.

After learning about the Women's Business Center of Utah at a Moab event a few years ago, Thomas began attending accounting and marketing classes. She's also consulted one-on-one with a business coach to help with her Sego Lily preschool and a second business, Our Village Community Center.

With offices in Salt Lake City and Cedar City, WBCUtah hired Sarah Barstow in April 2021 as its business advisor for the Moab region. Barstow does outreach to spread the word about the business center. She teaches classes, like the Ms. Biz, a four-week introduction-to-business course; responds to inquiries; and meets individually with people who are looking to start or grow a business. Barstow also continuously seeks out female-owned businesses to add to WBCUtah's free online directory.

Founded in Salt Lake City in 1997, the Women's Business Center of Utah is a public-private partnership between the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce and the U.S. Small Business Administration. The organization offers resources to both aspiring, and up-and-running business owners throughout Utah to help them start, grow and improve their businesses. The center's core services include group training - both virtual and in-person; online selfpaced webinars, courses, and podcasts, and one-on-one advising.

While the nonprofit organization markets specifically to women, it will help anyone who seeks business advice or assistance, says WBCUtah State Director Ann Marie Wallace. The business center markets specifically to women because they more often face barriers to accessing capital, are sometimes not taken seriously by lenders, and oftentimes have family responsibilities making it more difficult to attend daytime training, says Wallace. "We can help them in whatever phase they're in — at no charge," she adds.



Sego Lily Preschool's Annie Thomas with a student. [Courtesy photo]



Women's Business Center of Utah Business Advisor Sarah Barstow [Courtesy photo]

The spring 2022 grant competition, where Thomas placed third, drew 140 applicants statewide, with 24 chosen to move forward and receive instruction on how to make a pitch for money. "They had to explain what they'd do with \$5,000 to grow their business," Wallace says. Every participant received money - a dozen participants received \$750, while the 12

who advanced to the spring competition received \$1,000 or more.

The grant competition included two early rounds in which judges gave immediate feedback, and one later round where participants spoke in front of a conference audience of 75-150 people. Contestants described their businesses and explained how they would use the money to expand, and how it would benefit the community.

"The business center gave us a lot of support" for preparing pitches, Thomas says. I met with their team; they shared lots of resources." Volunteers and staff met with participants via Zoom to help the entrepreneurs refine their pitches before presenting to judges, and bankers.

Barstow visits shops in Moab and elsewhere in Utah, stopping in to ask if it happens to be a woman-based business — if so, she tells the owners about the free WBCUtah's online business directory. "I want every woman business owner in the free directory www.womenutahowned. com," Barstow said. "I check for new businesses every day to add."



A screenshot of a Women's Business Center of Utah grant competition held online last year. [Courtesy Women's Business Center of Utah]

FREE RESOURCES FOR MOAB ENTREPRENEURS

Miray Diner, who owns two souvenir shops in Moab – 4 Moon, 35 N. Main St., and Moab Trading Post, 83 S. Main St., is one of several local business owners Barstow has contacted. "She told me about the business center and what they do," recalls Diner. "They've been so helpful, with taxes, how to acquire loans. Whatever question I had, I texted, or emailed. She's always very responsive."

Diner says she has also taken classes on marketing, cash flow, and budgeting, both online and in-person. "We completed projects (homework) to show we understood the material." Barstow and Diner have continued to stay in touch with each other. "It's so nice to have someone to sit down with and talk to about your business," Diner says. "To know someone is listening to you."

Ariana Lowe and her husband Simon Strain were in the midst of launching their Moab Adventure Rigs in 2020, when she became pregnant with their son, and then the pandemic hit slowing Lowe from fully marketing the business while her husband was busy with a fulltime job.



Miray Diner of 4 Moon and Moab Trading Post.
[Courtesy Women's Business Center of Utah]

However, Lowe says Barstow has continually kept her abreast of marketing and other business courses she might be interested in, as well as grant money she can apply for her small business.

"I'm grateful she has kept these opportunities in front of me as I'm able to jump in and take advantage of resources," Lowe says. What Lowe has found particularly beneficial as she balances motherhood with operating a new business, are the oneon-one meetings she's been able to schedule with Barstow. "She helped me create a marketing plan," Lowe says.

When Lowe struggled to find a good payment portal for her business, Barstow checked with other companies, and did some research to come up with five different payment portals considered top-rated she could recommend. "That was really helpful," Lowe says.

Thomas mentioned how she learned Quickbooks, an accounting software program, through the business center. She says she was able to set up her accounts with instructors walking her through each step. She has since taken the skills she's acquired to help open a third family business — Pedego Electric Bikes.



Ariana Lowe of Moab Adventure Rigs [Courtesy photo]



Rhondelle Pierce of "Moyo" Moab Frozen Yogurt. [Courtesy Women's Business Center of Utah]



Tiffany Butler of Wanderlust. [Courtesy Women's Business Center of Utah]

"Sarah is such a great support; she's someone with experience," Thomas says. "She gives us resources we wouldn't have known about or found otherwise. She's a wealth of information."

Barstow nominated Thomas for the "Southern Utah Entrepreneur of the Year" award "because of her entrepreneurial spirit and dedication to community," she says. Thomas acquired farmland that was slated for development in her downtown neighborhood and preserved the property as an outdoor-based education program site. "She's learning how to be a farmer, in addition to running a school and raising kids," Barstow says. "She focuses on intergenerational connections and has a wonderful vision for what she could do for this community with the property."

Currently there's a three-year wait list for Thomas's Sego Lily preschool, where children are outdoors 95% of the time – even through the winter season when kids bundle up with coats and hats. "I want to expand so we can allow more children in," Thomas says. "This year with grant funding we're hoping to add teachers." She says her long-term plan is to open a larger child care facility in Moab.

GRAND COUNTY TOP IN PARTICIPATION

Though originally hired to help people in the southern Utah region, Barstow's duties have grown to serving clients throughout the state. Women's Business Center of Utah partners with a dozen rural chambers of commerce, including the Moab Chamber of Commerce which includes a link to WBCUtah on its website.

> "It's so nice to have someone to sit down and talk to about your business."

In compiling its data, the business center estimates the number of women-owned businesses per county and compares those numbers to the number of businesses participating in its programs. Wallace is impressed with the data coming out of Moab regarding the number of femaleowned businesses that have participated in WBCUtah's services.

Since August 2020 the business center has served 40 women in Grand County (an estimated 15% of all women business owners), of which 83% were already in business and 17% were aspiring entrepreneurs. Clients were provided with 86 one-on-one advising sessions (averaging two sessions per person), and 72 women participated in training sessions, (averaging two sessions per person).

"The county with the most participants per estimated women business-owners was Grand County," says Wallace. "I attribute that to Sarah. She's done so much outreach. People know her." ■

> For more information visit: wbcutah.org

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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 Mountain 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

Elevation: 4,026 ft Settled: 1878

Mayor: Joette Langianese

Population: Moab 5,268 (2019), Grand County 9,640 (2019)

Highest point in La Sal Mountains:

Mount Peale, 12,721 ft

Climate: Midsummer average high/low: 99F/65F,

Midwinter average high/low: 43F/20F

Average annual precipitation in Moab: 9 inches Speed limit in town: 25MPH (15MPH for OHVs) Driving distance in miles to Salt Lake City: 233,

Denver: 354, Las Vegas: 458

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 Hwv 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

CITY INFO:

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

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

Water and Sewer: 587-3221 Sanitarian: 587-2021 Assessor: 587-3221

INSURANCE COMPANIES

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

LENDERS

Fidelity Mortgage: 719-4100 www.fidelitymortgage.com

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

CONTRACTORS

Ben Byrd: 259-0224 Chuck Garlett: 259-5014 Henderson Builders: 259-4111 Craig Haren: 259-1537 Jared Ehlers: 259-9499 Jim Keogh: 260-8127 Joe Sorensen: 260-5948 Triple J: 259-9988 Moab Construction: 259-8529

Lawson: 259-4079 Eco Logic: 259-6264

Jude Tuft, General Contractor: 719-5082

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