

# MOAB SUN NEWS

Volume 12, Number 42  
www.moabsunnews.com

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PUBLIC HEALTH

## Recognizing signs of abuse

Children’s Justice Center provides a resource for kids and families

By **RACHEL FIXSEN**  
*Moab Sun News*

The training room at the new Grand County Emergency Medical Services building was packed last Thursday afternoon. First responders and multidisciplinary team members gathered to attend a training on pediatric forensic medical exams—what they are and when they’re called for—put on by the Grand County Children’s Justice Center.

Dr. Antoinette Laskey, pediatrician and chief of the Division of Child Protection and Family Health at the University of Utah, traveled to Moab to deliver the presentation explaining the signs that should prompt a forensic medical exam for a child who has suffered suspected abuse; who to contact to initiate the process; and what the exams involve.

Attendees included law enforcement from the Moab City Police Department, Grand County Sheriff’s Office, and Utah Highway Patrol; advocates from Seekhaven Family Crisis and Resource Center; medical and mental health care providers; and emergency medical technicians—all members of a support system who may encounter child victims of suspected physical or sexual abuse.

**What is the Children’s Justice Center?**

The Children’s Justice Center is part of a national network of support centers (called Children’s Advocacy Centers in most states) that works in coordination with the National Children’s Alliance, which was founded in 1988.

“Children’s Advocacy Centers coordinate the investigation, treatment, and prosecution of child abuse cases by utilizing multidisciplinary teams of professionals involved in child protective and victim advocacy services, law enforcement and prosecution, and physical and mental health,” according to a Department of Justice website.

The Grand County Children’s Justice Center opened in 2005, and is overseen by the county attorney’s office. This spring a new director took leadership of the CJC: Brooke DeGraw, who returned to Moab after 16 years away. She formerly served as the director of Seekhaven; she took on her new role in March.

“I host forensic interviews for  
*See Center Page 6*

## Local Election Guide



There are three Grand County Commission seats up for election this year: At-large, District 4, and District 5. See **pages 10-13** to get to know the candidates and take a look at this year’s ballot.

Three other positions are up for election this year: county attorney, county sheriff, and fire commissioner. See next week’s edition to get to know those candidates.

LAWSUIT

## County responds to BlueRibbon ATV lawsuit

11 local businesses joined advocacy group in complaint; county denies fault

By **RACHEL FIXSEN**  
*Moab Sun News*

Grand County has submitted a formal response to a lawsuit filed by ATV advocacy group the BlueRibbon Coalition and 11 Moab businesses against the county, as well as Moab City, over noise ordinances and business licensing regulations. [See “UTV advocates move forward with lawsuit,” Sept. 29 edition. -ed.]

The plaintiffs claim \$1 million in damages and say the county and city are deliberately targeting ATV users. County Attorney Christina Sloan submitted a reply on Oct. 17 denying the plaintiffs’ claims for relief and specifically addressing itemized claims made in the complaint.

For example, the complaint alleges in multiple places that the county and city enacted their codes “for the purpose of targeting and inhibiting the use of ATVs in Grand County and the City of Moab.” The county’s  
*See Lawsuit Page 8*

COMMUNITY

## Helping kids make memories

Community-supported ‘Fun Fund’ sends Grand County kids to camp

By **MAGGIE MCGUIRE**  
*Moab Sun News*

Anjelica is overflowing with excitement, like any kid talking about their summer at camp.

She tells exciting stories about new challenges she faced this summer: She learned the names of the night stars, saw the ocean, made friendship bracelets with young people from all over the country, and shrieked with other campers when raccoons rustled around their campsite at night.

Anjelica Bonita Rosales Santana had just finished fifth



Anjelica Santana made new friends and lifelong memories at Camp Nor’Wester in Washington. [Courtesy photo]

grade when she got on an airplane in Salt Lake City for the very first time, flying to Washington to spend a full month at Camp Nor’Wester.

“When I was in Salt Lake, I was so nervous I was crying,” she says. “But in the morning, I took a deep breath, brushed my teeth and just went. It was so fun.”

She’s one of a growing number of Grand County youth who have gone to camp courtesy of the Fun Fund, the brainchild of Stefanie Biron, a therapist in the Grand County School

*See Fun Fund Page 7*

### Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

TANF Family Housing program helps families obtain stable housing by providing deposits, rental assistance, rental arrears, utility deposits, and mortgage assistance to families with dependent children under the age of 18 living in the home.

Contact Colton Judd to schedule an appointment 435-613-0021







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We love community submissions!  
Email your photo or letter to the editor to moabsunnewseditor@gmail.com by 5 p.m. Monday to be considered for publication.



**Bread and Puppet Theatre**

The political street theatre troupe Bread and Puppet Theatre performed to a large crowd in Moab's Swanny City Park on October 15. The group, in action since the 1960s, held a public workshop the previous day at the Moab Arts and Recreation Center and included local volunteers in the performance. [Maggie McGuire / Moab Sun News]

The Moab Sun News is celebrating 10 years of independent, community-based journalism!

The Moab Sun News is committed to helping residents get involved locally through civic engagement, publicizing events and promoting an inclusive, active community. We couldn't do it without the support of our readers: our work responds to your questions, priorities and our community's pressing needs.

Get the latest news and be a part of the community by:

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Thanks to all our readers!



Heads up!

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH #DVAM**

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We appreciate the time and energy all of you committed to help develop the Moab - Tomorrow Together Community Vision & Strategic Action Plan.

**YOU made this project successful!**

The City is looking forward to continued collaboration and community engagement as we work toward achieving this shared vision for Moab's future.

Questions? Send us an email: [communication@moabcity.org](mailto:communication@moabcity.org)

Learn about this important community project: [bit.ly/MoabTomorrowTogether](https://bit.ly/MoabTomorrowTogether)

Scan to go to website



## Local

### MOAB ARTS LOOKS FOR PUBLIC ART IDEAS

Moab Arts is looking for proposals for public art around Moab, including ideas for sculptures, performances, murals and more. Artists at all career levels are encouraged to apply and applications close on November 1. Special projects looking for the right artist include a final mosaic on the concrete planters in front of the Moab Arts and Recreation Center and an artist to decorate a donated piano that will be installed for public use. If you are interested in one of these projects specifically, let the MARC staff know by phone at 435-259-6272 or email at [marcadmin@moabcity.org](mailto:marcadmin@moabcity.org).

## Regional

### SHAFTER TRAIL CLOSED FOR DATES IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

The Shafer Trail Road in Canyonlands National Park will be closed for all uses during required maintenance on Oct. 24 to 27, Oct. 31 to Nov. 3, and Nov. 7 to 10. The trail will stay open on weekends. The maintenance work will repair tread surfaces and road shoulders damaged by rain and flooding this year. Visitors will still be able to access the White Rim Road via Potash Road during these closures.

### RESIDENTS MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR INTERNET DISCOUNT

The Federal Communications Commission released a new benefit program called the Affordable Connectivity Program which provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward internet service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands. Emery Telcom customers can call 435-259-8521 in Grand County for more information; Frontier customers can call 1-844-342-7501 and a full list of participating providers, qualifying criteria and the online application can be found at [www.affordableconnectivity.gov](http://www.affordableconnectivity.gov).

## Odd But True

### PAN SOLO PROOFED FIRST

Han Solo may be a hunk. But “Pan Solo” is a hunk of bread. Walk past the One House Bakery in California and you’ll see a six-foot-tall sculpture of Han Solo frozen in...bread. Bakery owners Hannalee and Catherine Pervan didn’t have any carbonite to spare, but they spent weeks molding, baking and assembling the life-sized sculpture using two types of dough and a little wood for structure as part of a local scarecrow contest. The lovingly crafted details show Han Solo’s anguished face and his hands straining to reach out. “Mom made me leave it because I was obsessing over the lips,” Hannalee Pervan told the New York Times. Google it to check out their amazing work!

# Local&Regional



### STEMonstrations

The Festival of Science kicked off on Wednesday, Oct. 19, with a “STEMonstrations” event. Kids explored activity booths set up by organizations including the Canyons of the Ancients National Monumnet (pictured), the Moab Museum, the Youth Garden Project, and the University of Utah. [Alison Harford/Moab Sun News]

### ENVIRONMENT

## County pledges funds to water monitoring projects

Wetlands studies are a “critical piece” of the water picture

By **RACHEL FIXSEN**

*Moab Sun News*

Water is always top of mind in semi-arid climates like Grand County’s, especially in the face of extended regional drought and with the prospect of ongoing development. At their Oct. 18 meeting, Grand County commissioners voted to help fund two projects designed to deepen understanding of the hydrology of the Moab valley by studying the wetlands contained in the Scott and Norma Matheson Wetlands Preserve.

Kathryn Ladig of the Utah Geological Survey’s Groundwater and Wetlands Program introduced the first of the studies.

“We’re looking at developing a water budget for the wetlands and refining studies that have been done in the past, adding a lot more detail,” Ladig said. The project will also examine a brine layer, likely from the Paradox geological layer, that lies under the fresh groundwater,

*See **Water** Page 9*



The Scott and Norma Matheson Wetlands Preserve. [Moab Sun News file photo]



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## GRAND COUNTY DESERVES BETTER INFRASTRUCTURE

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- Why are additional bicycle and walking paths for our citizens not being built?
- Why are we not using the tremendous increases in County revenue for infrastructure for our citizens instead of massive salary raises and creation of new unneeded positions for County leaders?
- Why do we not have enough recreation facilities for our youth sports programs?

We think a better job can be done for the citizens of this county, but not if we keep voting for people with the same agenda and viewpoints.  
Take this into consideration when voting this November.

**Please register and please vote.**  
It's the best way to have your voice heard.  
If you have a valid Utah Drivers license, you can register to vote online at the following link:

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MOAB SUN NEWS OCT. 21-27, 2022

# Local Government

PAGE FOUR

The Grand County Commission meets on the first and third Tuesday of every month at 4 p.m.  
Meetings are streamed online at the Grand County Youtube channel.

**ECONOMY**

## Economic Development Department update

Advertising, visitor education, and local grants

By **RACHEL FIXSEN**  
*Moab Sun News*

At the Oct. 18 Grand County Commission meeting, Economic Development Department Director August Granath shared updates on the department's recent activities and achievements. The department oversees tourism advertising; in addition to campaigns aimed at visitors who drive and visitors who fly to Moab, the department has focused on educational campaigns and promoting responsible recreation.

Granath described campaigns explaining the timed entry program at Arches National Park: They created web pages, distributed info cards and adventure guides to local businesses, placed ads in local print media, and placed an informational poster in Canyonlands Regional Airport. They also spent \$200,000 on a digital campaign, with information on TripAdvisor, Instagram, Facebook and YouTube.

Granath proudly shared a new educational video posted on the department's YouTube channel and on the discovermoab.com website. Filmmaker Mark Finley, who has worked with the Moab Area Travel Council and the Economic Development Department on many past projects, created the video promoting responsible recreation, called "Moab's Living Soil Crust," in which local scientists Sasha Reed and Kristina Young expound on the impor-

tance of staying on trails to protect biological soil crusts in the Moab desert.

"Biocrusts matter for so many reasons in these deserts: they stabilize soils, they add fertility, they interact with plants and wildlife in ways that we're only just starting to realize," Reed says in the video, as close-up footage explores the intricacies of the moss, lichen and cyanobacteria that make up the biocrust.

"He's got a new macro-lens that gets really high quality up-close content," Granath told the commission. "The quality, to me, feels like a Discovery Channel piece."

Videos like these are part of the department's strategy to establish a culture of responsible recreation in the Moab area. The department is promoting messages not just about protecting natural resources, but also about courtesy in residential areas and in town.

The department also partnered with the Southeast Utah Health Department, the Grand County Active Transportation and Trails Division, and the Solid Waste Special Service District to disperse information on proper disposal of portable human waste bags: a page on the Discover Moab website lists the locations of new drop-off points.

In addition to targeted advertising campaigns, the department produces and distributes

travel guides and fields phone calls and emails from visitors.

The department also created several new grant programs this year, and has dispersed or will soon disperse around \$1 million to the community. One grant was aimed at tourism businesses, (called the Marketing Our Awesome Businesses, or MOAB! grant) and distributed about \$30,000 to seven awardees. A selection committee has identified dozens of recipients of the department's Sustainable and Resilient Business (or STAR) grants; the first round of these awardees, which will receive a total of \$709,135, was unanimously approved by the commission at the Oct. 18 meeting. Another round will be reviewed at the commission's next meeting. Another grant program offered relief for businesses affected by the severe flooding in August; the department dispersed \$213,000 through that program.

Members of the department also pursued networking and professional development opportunities, gaining new degrees and certifications and attending conferences and trade shows. The department's Canyonlands Business Summit drew 150 attendees from both Grand and San Juan counties.

*Keep up with the department's activities on discovermoab.com and grandcountytah.net/Economic-Development.*

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

## Grand County audit results

County "not perfect, but doing better"

By **RACHEL FIXSEN**  
*Moab Sun News*

Grand County commissioners heard a presentation on the results from a 2021 county audit conducted by the independent auditing firm Larson & Co. This is the first year the county has worked with this firm. Larson & Co representative Jon Haderlie explained the auditing procedure, including some changes in nationwide auditing standards (such as listing the auditor's opinion early on in the report) and the company's finding of an unmodified, or unqualified opinion on the county's financial statements.

In audit reports, a "qualified opinion" indicates either that the audit was limited in scope, or that there is a discrepancy between the findings and generally accepted auditing principles.

"Last year, you had a qualified opinion, and that was due to some of the component units—because they weren't tested," Haderlie said. Some of the "component units"—that is, special service districts in the county that keep their own books but are still considered in the county audit—have their own independent audits done, and the county auditor relies on those opinions. However, some of the special service districts don't have their own audits done. This year, analysts from Larson & Co. ran tests on those component units, so the firm wouldn't have to qualify its opinion.

Haderlie said that the county has improved over the previous year, when expenses were over budget at the health department, domestic violence fund, capital project fund and in health care.

"However, that appears to have been addressed and corrected," he said. "There weren't any issues of that during 2021."

Haderlie said that it can be difficult to submit the audit report in time for federal deadlines, and this is usually because component units are sometimes late in having their audits completed. He hopes that the law can be changed to make the deadline for those audits earlier in the year, to allow more time for county audits to be completed by the federal deadline.

After a dense explanation of auditing procedures and findings, Commissioner Mary McGann sought a brief, clear summary.

"Basically, we're ok?" she asked.

"Yes—doing a good job, doing better. Not perfect, but doing better," Haderlie agreed.



ELECTIONS

# How to make informed decisions on judges

Utah makes it easy with a handy website

By SAIGE MILLER

KUER Radio 90.1

Utah is one of only a few states that allow voters to decide if a judge should keep their seat on the bench. But there's a notable dropoff in the number of people who vote on judge retention versus congressional candidates or ballot initiatives.

Jennifer Yim, the director of the Utah Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission, attributes the lack of votes to the minimal information available about the judges up for retention.

"They see this long list of judges and they feel like they have no way of knowing how to cast their votes," she said.

That's where the independent and nonpartisan commission hopes to help voters out by taking a detailed look at all 63 judges on November's ballot.

The commission evaluates a judge based on their legal ability, integrity, judicial temperament, administrative skills and procedural fairness.

To do that it uses four criteria: objective standards, courtroom observation results, survey response and court-user interviews. The commission also collects public comments from citizens who have interacted with any given judge.

From that data, the commission determines if each judge meets performance standards. It then votes on whether it recommends a judge remain on the

bench. All judges are subject to retention, including Utah's Supreme Court Justices.

"Judicial performance evaluation comes about as a way to provide the information that the voter might need to make that decision," Yim said, "because most of us aren't in court very often and wouldn't have any way of making sense of that part of our ballot without it."

All a voter has to do is visit [knowyourjudges.utah.gov](http://knowyourjudges.utah.gov) or [judges.utah.gov](http://judges.utah.gov), select a Utah county and they will gain access to each evaluation the commission has completed. Front and center is a short description of the judge's performance and an infographic showcasing a judge's ranking.

Users are also able to read the survey responses and view a breakdown of each category, such as the courtroom observation results.

Another critical aspect of the commission is informing judges of their evaluations halfway through their six-year term. If the commission determines a judge needs to improve, they have time to remedy the problems before the general election.

"The judges are able to address the issues, come up with a plan, work with their education departments and fix those problems," Yim said.

To Yim, that is "by far the most effective" part of the process.

Retired Utah Supreme Court

Justice Deno Himonas agrees. He served as a judge for the better part of 18 years – both as a trial judge and on the state's Supreme Court. He said one of the reasons Utah has a "stellar judiciary" is partly due to the commission and its evaluations.

Himonas believes the commission's evaluations are vital to both the judge and the public.

"It's really important for the judges to get the feedback and to be able to improve their performance," he said. "I also think it's really important for the public and public confidence in the judiciary to see what the evaluations are, how people that are appearing in front of the judges feel about that."

If a judge chooses not to fix the problems identified by the commission or if the commission recommends the judge not be retained, Yim said more often than not, the judge chooses to step down from the bench.

"It's important for voters to know that they have a say," Yim said. "They can cast informed votes on judges by going to [judges.utah.gov](http://judges.utah.gov), by taking a look at the information and choosing for themselves how they want to vote on the judges who serve their communities."

*This article is published through the Utah News Collaborative, a partnership of news organizations in Utah that aims to inform readers across the state.*



**OPEN HOUSE**  
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Please join us in celebrating the opening of Heron School. Applications will be available for interested students and families, and staff will be available to answer any questions. Please be respectful of our neighbors—off street parking is available down the driveway just past the big red barn.

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# Center

Continued from Page 1

kiddos that have suffered abuse,” DeGraw said, explaining the purpose of the CJC. Non-medical interviews are conducted by a trained staff person (either a law enforcement officer or Division of Child and Family Services representative) with a trauma-informed approach in a comfortable environment, and designed to collect all important information so that the child only has to give such an interview one time. “Another big part of my job is, I host multidisciplinary meetings,” DeGraw added. That means coordinating representatives from different agencies involved in public health and safety, and making sure everyone is on the same page regarding case statuses and protocols.

Trainings like Thursday’s discussion on forensic medical exams help ensure multidisciplinary responders are working with the same information and protocols.

### Forensic medical exams

Forensic medical examiners are trained to use a trauma-informed approach and to collect evidence in a way that’s most likely to preserve it. They’re also prepared to testify before a jury on their findings and the significance of those findings.

The primary objective of a forensic medical exam is to provide the patient with any needed medical care, whether that’s treatment for injuries or infections, pregnancy prevention, or therapy for trauma or mental health issues stemming from an abusive incident or situation. Collecting forensic evidence that can shed light on the incident, if possible, is another important objective.

Laskey’s direct, efficient delivery clearly outlined protocols and the reasoning behind them; she even found instances for humor, even though the subject was grim.

“I don’t treat adults; adults are gross,” she joked as she dis-

cussed how some procedures for examining specific injuries are different for minors than they are for adults.

Large bay doors on one side of the room opened to the bright blue skies and yellow leaves of fall while Laskey clicked through slides at the front of the room. She broke the presentation down into two categories: physical and sexual abuse.

In cases of sexual abuse, the timing of a forensic medical exam is crucial, both because prophylactic treatments are more effective the earlier they’re administered, and because the likelihood of collecting forensic evidence is highest within the first 24 hours after an incident has occurred. For pre-pubertal patients, an exam will be most effective within the first 72 hours; for post-pubertal patients, the window is 120 hours.

Prophylactics against HIV are most effective within 72 hours of exposure; medications preventing pregnancy are most effective within 120 hours. (These medications do not cause abortions, but rather prevent implantation.)

“The clock is working against us,” Laskey said.

However, even if the window for collecting forensic evidence is past—for example, even if a child waits months to disclose an incident—it’s still important to conduct an exam. Healthcare providers can still identify and treat STDs and also screen for mental health issues.

Laskey pointed out that an exam cannot confirm whether abuse did or did not occur. Even consensual sex between adults can leave injuries, she noted, and nonconsensual sex may leave no injuries. Injuries in soft tissues also heal very quickly, she said.

She debunked other myths about forensic exams of sexual abuse cases. They are not, she said, intrusive or invasive; they don’t use the same procedure conducted during a routine gynecological visit; the exam is not traumatizing for kids; it can’t prove or disprove that penetration has occurred; and the exam still has value even if

it’s conducted a long time after the incident occurred. For non-acute exams (exams conducted beyond the time immediately after an incident), healthcare professionals can still look for indications of abuse, treat any infections if they’re present, screen for mental health issues and trauma, and provide reassurance and advice to patients and families.

In cases of physical abuse, there are different protocols depending on the age of the patient. For infants under 12 months, who are not yet ambulatory, signs of possible abuse are different than for toddlers, who often get into accidents on their own. Laskey described several “sentinel injuries” in infants that could indicate more serious problems.

Subconjunctival hemorrhages, or blood in the whites of the eyes, can be caused by squeezing injuries. These spots can appear in infants after a vaginal birth, but should go away within a few weeks.

Tears in the oral frenula (the skin beneath the tongue) are another troubling sign in nonambulatory patients. The injury could indicate that something was shoved in the patient’s mouth—even something as soft as a binky, Laskey said, can tear the frenula if shoved forcefully.

Bruises in the ears are another sentinel injury in infants. Ears are a protected area and unlikely to bruise unless someone deliberately twists, pinches, or otherwise injures them. Bruises anywhere on an infant’s body could indicate abuse or a bleeding disorder—either case could prove fatal if it’s not addressed.

Toddlers who can walk are more prone to accidents and bruises are not necessarily a cause for concern in that age group, but examiners should still be observant of the location and nature of bruises. Injuries on soft, usually protected areas of the body, or bruises that reveal a certain pattern, could be signs of abuse. For example, accidents are unlikely to cause bruises on the fleshy part of the cheeks.

“Bony prominences are more likely to have accidental injuries,” Laskey said.

School-aged children are easier to examine than infants or toddlers, Laskey said, because they can explain what happened. However, it can still be difficult to determine exactly what happened if different parties offer different explanations for an injury, or if narratives conflict with forensic evidence.

Responders who suspect the possibility of abuse can contact Daphne Solomon, the Children’s Justice Center Nurse Practitioner for Grand and San Juan Counties. Solomon is the only Nurse Practitioner in the area trained to conduct exams for acute sexual assault for patients aged 14 and under. If she’s unavailable to conduct an exam, she coordinates with other trained nurse practitioners to find a provider who can complete the exam quickly.

“In the past, when a child required a SANE exam, the family needed to travel to Primary Children’s Hospital or a neighboring state where the exam could be performed,” Solomon wrote in an email to the Moab Sun News.

A small group of nurses at Moab Regional Hospital are trained as Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners, or SANEs, but specific training is required to examine and treat patients under the age of 14.

A primary care physician can perform exams for past sexual abuse, but the Children’s Justice Center Nurse Practitioner has specific training that could help identify signs of abuse or other medical diagnoses unrelated to abuse.

Laskey said it’s better to conduct an exam that doesn’t raise concerns than to decide not to conduct an exam that could have exposed an abusive situation.

“We really want to have the opportunity to make a difference for a kid,” Laskey said.

### Accreditation

DeGraw is in the process of applying for re-accreditation for the

Grand County Children’s Justice Center. The National Children’s Alliance is the accrediting organization, and it uses ten standards to evaluate advocacy and justice centers. The standards are updated every five years and accredited centers are reviewed at that interval. DeGraw has submitted a required application, which is being reviewed by NCA staff; a site visit to the Grand County center is scheduled in the coming months.

The first standard is that a center must work with a multidisciplinary team including members from child protective service agencies, medical providers, victim advocates, prosecutors, and law enforcement. Other standards require that centers promote diversity, equity, and inclusion; that centers conduct forensic interviews in a legally sound and neutral, fact-finding manner; that centers provide or give referrals for victim support and advocacy; that they facilitate medical examinations when needed; that they provide or refer to mental health care; and that they have a formal process for case review and coordination.

Centers must have a case tracking system: the Grand County CJC tracks through a database run by the state, and through monthly multidisciplinary team meetings. The standards also require a legal entity to be responsible for a center’s program and fiscal operations—in Utah, the Attorney General’s office oversees CJsCs in the state. The last standard is that a center must provide for child safety and protection.

“I’m knee-deep in it,” DeGraw said of the re-accreditation process.

The network of Children’s Justice and Children’s Advocacy centers was developed to help “connect all the dots,” DeGraw said, in cases of child abuse, providing a central resource for victims and families. The need for such an organization persists: the NCA’s statistics website says that between January and June of this year, CJsCs in Utah served 2,419 children.





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Ahzure Reed attended Camp Thunderbird in Minnesota with support from the Fun Fund. [Courtesy photo]



Juliana Vizcarra Marquez went camping with Deer Hill Expeditions. [Courtesy photo]

# Fun Fund

Continued from Page 1

District. Now, the Fun Fund is looking to grow and send more students to build new experiences at camp in 2023—with the community’s help.

“As part of my job as a therapist, I see a lot of kids who don’t have a lot of opportunity to do stuff that they want to do,” Biron said. “My goal is to take those barriers away, because I think having experiences is so important.”

She started the Fun Fund out of her own pocket to provide those opportunities, supporting kids going to equine therapy groups and horseback lessons with Mel Hare.

“I had kids who wanted to keep going with that,” she said, “and I just posted on my Facebook: ‘hey, can anyone help pay for horseback riding lessons?’ and, you know, I got about \$1,500 in support.”

With the encouragement of that community support, Biron looked at how to grow the Fun Fund, which has also received contributions from the Moab 100

Women’s Club, a local philanthropic group.

In 2021, the Fun Fund supported a local high school student headed to camp, working with the Colorado-based Deer Hill Foundation. The student’s experience was so positive, Biron said that she knew she wanted the fund to help more local young people go to camp. After some research, she found an organization called A Thousand Summers, a nonprofit that seeks to change kids’ lives by giving them access to summer camp experiences.

After some hectic last-minute phone calls, Anjelica received a full scholarship to camp from A Thousand Summers.

“These camps are expensive, so that was amazing,” Biron said. Still, going to a summer camp requires plenty of other expenses, like travel costs, medical check-ups, camping supplies and lots of paperwork.

“We help with the whole process, depending on what the families need,” Biron said. That included driving a nervous Anjelica up to Salt Lake City for her very first airplane flight.

“To be in fifth grade and never

really leave this area,” Biron said with excitement, “then to fly to Washington after you have never been on a plane before? Like, that’s just really a cool story!”

After seeing the memories, excitement and self-confidence that going to camp has given the students she’s worked with, Biron wants to increase the Fun Fund’s impact with the community’s support. Her goal for this year is to send four local kids to camp.

“I’ve noticed that the more things like this happen, the more the kids want to do more stuff,” said Biron. “They want to take risks and learn, and I think that’s super important.”

Anjelica is also inspiring the people around her.

“Now my best friend really wants to go to camp bad,” Anjelica said. With all her newfound experience, she was able to give her friend some well-earned advice.

“I told her, ‘you will be so nervous to go,’” she said, “but when you get there it will be awesome.”

To learn more and get involved with the Fun Fund, contact Stefanie Biron at [birons@grand-schools.org](mailto:birons@grand-schools.org) or 435-719-4709.

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A UTV on the Hell's Revenge trail in the Sand Flats Recreation Area. [Moab Sun News file photo]

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## Lawsuit

Continued from Page 1

response states that the county's actions were intended to protect the health, safety and welfare of county inhabitants, were made in response to many complaints specifically citing ATVs, and in acknowledgement of the measurable impacts of ATVs on noise levels in the county.

The county's answer also denied the complaint's characterizations of the public process through which the commission passed its ordinances. The complaint says that "in or about spring of 2021, Grand County Commission began proposing noise ordinances in County meetings, to which they received opposition, and which they eventually shelved at each meeting." Its next claim states that "certain Plaintiffs attended public hearings, voiced their opinions to the Grand County Commission, and informed the Commission of the effect Title 11 would have on ATV businesses. Nevertheless, the Grand County Commission chose to adopt Title 11." (Title 11 contains the county's noise ordinances.)

In response, the county's answer says that the process of updating Title 11 included public hearings and meetings; workshops and meetings with the ATV business community facilitated by Utah State University and the Moab Chamber of Commerce; consultation with groups such as the Motorized Trail Committee; and vehicle noise testing days. Regarding opposition to the updated Title 11, the county's answer says that the county received about 337 comments from local residents in favor of the regulations and about four from local residents who were opposed to the regulations.

The complaint also claims that most stock model ATVs cannot meet the noise standards in the county and city codes; based on extensive testing, the county found that most stock models

can, in fact, meet its standard of 92 decibels measured using a standard stationary test performed at 20 inches from the tailpipe.

Plaintiffs complained that noise testing requirements for business ATV fleets were unclear and couldn't be completed by the imposed deadline. The county's answer explained that the county made sheriff's officers available to conduct sound tests on business fleets, hosted multiple sound testing events to accommodate business schedules, and that the deadline to complete these tests was extended to accommodate fleet turnover that many businesses complete during the winter months (otherwise, the county may have been testing vehicles that were about to be retired from use, and may have missed testing new vehicles that would be used in the coming season.)

"Grand County has acted at all times to further the legitimate governmental interest of protecting the health, safety, and welfare of its inhabitants and its visitors. And its actions are grounded in science, law and equity," the county's answer reads.

In an email, Sloan separately emphasized that the county's Title 5, which regulates business licensing, was updated in May to comply with Utah's HB 146, a law that prohibited several clauses that had been in the code previously. Sloan noted, too, that the county's moratorium on new ATV events was terminated earlier this month, and that the Grand County Commission has publicly discussed its intention to lift the cap on ATV business licenses pending updates to the county's land use code.

Links to the complaint and the answer are available on the county attorney website, grandcountyutah.net/attorney. A tab labeled "Community Interest Civil Litigation" on the left sidebar contains a link to information about the BlueRibbon Coalition lawsuit.





USGS National Agriculture Imagery Program imagery of the wetlands preserve. [USGS NAIP]

# Water

Continued from Page 3

as well as map vegetation in the preserve. Ladig emphasized that the information collected would be relevant to Grand County.

“We’re looking at two of the different aquifers that you guys rely on—the Glen Canyon and the Valley Fill—looking at how surface water is interacting with groundwater through there. And as we’re building this water budget that’s specific to Matheson Wetlands, there are pieces of that that are going to apply further into Spanish Valley.”

Marc Stilson, a regional engineer for the Utah Division of Water Rights, chimed in to emphasize the importance of gathering more information on the wetlands.

“To answer the question about, ‘How does this help us understand groundwater rights and future development on those rights?’—it’s a critically important piece,” he said. “The 2019 USGS study was a big, comprehensive picture, but they didn’t go into detail and they left us with a lot of questions that still need to be answered. And one of them is down around the wetlands.”

Water currently being discharged into and passing through the wetlands, Stilson

explained, represents water in the hydrologic system that could potentially still be available for development—but it’s not well understood.

“Understanding that dynamic, and whether or not that water can be pulled out without harming the wetlands, is a very critical piece of information that we need as applications come in front of us as development moves forward in Moab and Spanish Valley,” Stilson said.

The total budget for the project in 2023 is \$139,396, with funding coming from UGS, The Nature Conservancy, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, and the Colorado River Authority of Utah. Project representatives asked Grand County to contribute \$22,111 toward the project, which commissioners voted unanimously to do, adding an additional \$12,000 of expedited funding to continue funding the project the following year.

Tom Marston, a hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey at the Utah Water Science Center, introduced a proposal for another study looking at salinity in the Colorado River and the Matheson Wetlands. The study would build on previous salinity data collected in the Colorado River. The project also includes a “pump test,” which would test how susceptible the freshwater/brine interface is to remov-

ing water from the freshwater aquifer.

Stilson weighed in again. “What Tom has proposed again goes to the heart of the question, ‘If we develop more freshwater groundwater up the valley, is it going to somehow impact the wetlands? If we remove more of the freshwater layer that’s sitting on top of the brine, what’s going to happen?’ We don’t know the answer to that question,” he said.

If stakeholders (including Grand County, San Juan County, Moab City, and the Grand Water and Sewer Service Agency) want to continue to develop water resources in the valley, they need to understand the potential effects of that development.

“There’s a limited amount of groundwater left to use,” Stilson said. “If the major water users... in the valley want to continue to develop it, we would like to do so in a manner that doesn’t negatively impact the wetlands and other water users. And the Colorado River, for that matter.”

The commission voted to approve contributing \$19,362 toward the study. Marston is looking for \$45,000 in cooperative match funding, and Grand County commissioners hope that other entities that will benefit from the information gathered, such as San Juan County, will follow their lead in contributing.





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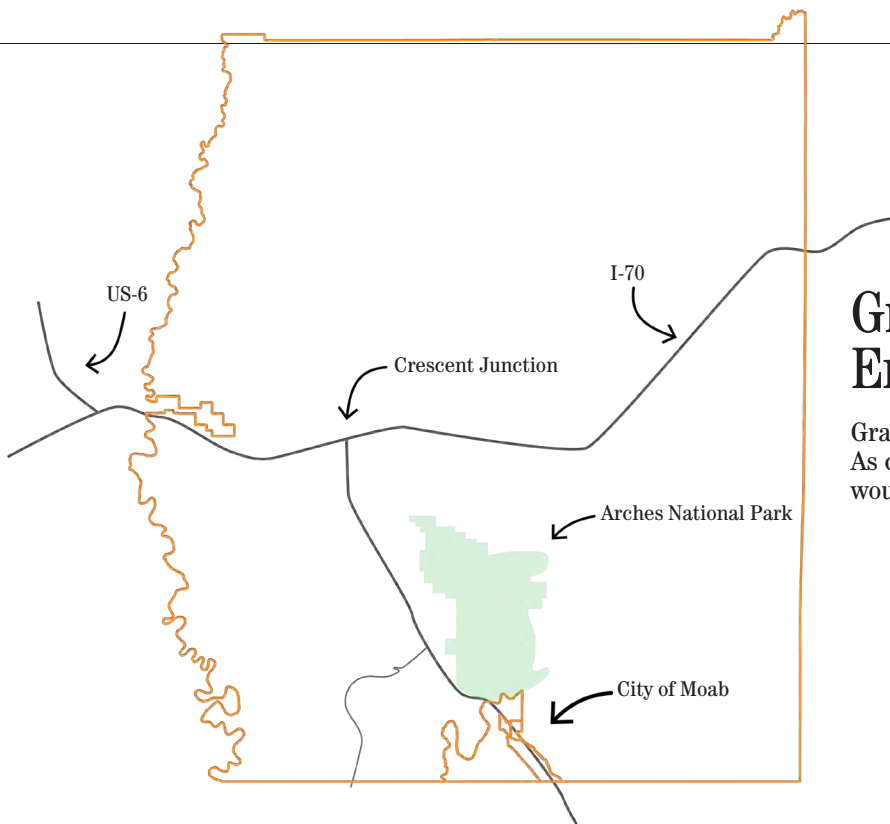


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<p>Visit <a href="http://judges.utah.gov">judges.utah.gov</a> to learn about the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission's recommendations for each judge</p>	<p><b>Constitutional Amendment A</b></p> <p>Shall the Utah Constitution be amended to change a provision relating to special sessions of the Utah Legislature that are convened by the president of the Utah Senate and speaker of the Utah House of Representatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to increase the limit on the total amount of money the Legislature may appropriate during the session from an amount equal to 1% of the total amount appropriated during the preceding fiscal year to an amount equal to 5% of the total amount appropriated during the preceding fiscal year; and</li> <li>• to exclude from that 5% limit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an appropriation of money that the state receives from the federal government to address a fiscal, public health, or other emergency or crisis; and</li> <li>• an appropriation that decreases the amount of money previously authorized to be spent.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Shall PAIGE PETERSEN be retained in the office of Justice of the Supreme Court of Utah?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> YES</p> <p><input type="radio"/> NO</p>	
<p>Shall DON M.TORGERSON be retained in the office of Judge of the District Court of the Seventh Judicial District?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> YES</p> <p><input type="radio"/> NO</p>	
<p>Shall GEORGE M. HARMOND be retained in the office of Judge of the District Court of the Seventh Judicial District?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> YES</p> <p><input type="radio"/> NO</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> FOR</p> <p><input type="radio"/> AGAINST</p>





## Grand County Commission At-large Emily Campbell, Bill Winfield

Grand County encompasses nearly 3,700 square miles. As commissioners at-large, Campbell or Winfield would represent the entire county.



### Emily Campbell

**What’s your history in Grand County? What sort of work have you done professionally? What made you decide to get involved with local government?**

I’ve lived in Grand County for a third of my life. My husband Jeff and I met as river guides and our boys attend HMK. I’m running for the same reason I volunteered to serve on the Planning Commission six years ago. Things are changing fast. I hear the same challenges no matter who I talk to: the lack of housing, the perception we’re losing our sense of community, and how our infrastructure and quality of life are not keeping up with growth. I intend to address these challenges head on instead of kicking the can down the road to our kids. I have deep experience and relationships across the community to draw from. My experience in economics makes me objective, quantitative, and fiscally responsible. I volunteer in the community as a soccer coach, as chair of the County Planning Commission, on the Economic Development Advisory Board, and the PTA. And I bring an open mind and a track record of getting things done by working with others. On the Planning Commission, I’ve worked well with both conservative and progressive members. We all lose out if we refuse to listen to each other’s ideas simply because we prefer our own.

**What’s an example of a great ordinance or political move you’ve seen in the last few years here in Grand County? What is one you believe was a misstep?**

I think the county has started to wake up to the urgency of the housing crisis and we finally have homes and rentals for locals hitting the market. I sup-

ported the decision four years ago to remove hotels and Airbnbs as an automatic “ok” from our commercial and residential zones. And I believe it’s the correct move to offer incentives for people building housing for locals, such as through the High Density Housing Overlay and the recent work from the Planning Commission to recognize and permit tiny homes and mobile dwellings as official residences.

But the county stumbles when they don’t listen closely to the problems people across Grand County are facing, and aren’t inclusive when finding solutions. When our business community and residents don’t feel like the commission is addressing their needs, it makes it harder to work together on anything. And ultimately the residents pay the cost. We are a small population in a small area, and people of all perspectives are feeling the impacts of growth. It is critical that county officials make it a priority to build bridges and listen.

**What is your strategy to evaluate whether a proposal or ordinance is worth implementing?**

I use an outcome-oriented approach, fueled by community input.

To start, I want to ensure we understand the problems we are targeting. For example, maybe we want to urgently address the lack of rentals available to locals. I also want to know upfront what we think a good outcome looks like, what constraints we have, and what might stand in the way of success. For example, if we pass this ordinance will people actually build that type of rental? What incentives might make it more likely? What might be the impact on existing residents and businesses, and are we sure we aren’t incentivizing adverse effects? Is the cost justifiable?

If something is just nice words on paper without a likelihood of actual success, we should rework it.

And finally I believe we benefit from critical discussion and public input. We should beat up our codes before they are law! It’s how we find blind spots and ensure what is passed is intentional and truly the best way to approach a problem. Sometimes

this means using pilot programs to bias towards action or to make changes incrementally. Regardless, we should always be learning and evaluating, and seeking to improve what exists.

**What three steps would you take in the next year to put our county on a firm footing for the future?**

First, I would take urgent action to ensure we have homes and rentals for local workers and families. This could include offering pre-approved plans for ADUs and other homes, which would save thousands of dollars in engineering work for residents building local housing. And we should critically assess the Land Use Code and the permitting process to remove unnecessary hoops that make building housing more expensive or slow the process for no good reason.

Second, I want us to regain local control of the ‘Moab brand’ so it reflects our community. I often hear from visitors “I forget that people live here.” We should educate people that Moab is our home through a strong and consistent campaign, backed by enforcement of speed limits and our local codes. I would work with outfitters and businesses to get the support they need to act even more effectively as our community’s ambassadors to visitors.

Third, we must increase the transparency and responsiveness of government. I intend to expand access to the commission through townhalls and improved social media presence. I believe we need to get residents involved in the process earlier and give people ample time to understand the discussion and weigh in.



### Bill Winfield

**What’s your history in Grand County? What sort of work have you done professionally? What made you decide to get involved with local government?**

I was born in the area and raised in Moab. My father was a uranium miner and rancher, and my mother was left with the chore of trying to raise eight children during a very hard time in Moab’s history. I started working at a very young age in Moab, which led me to get a job in housing construction and so I have been building for the majority of my life. I started my own construction company 20+ years ago and built the company to the point that I had 45 employees. My experience in negotiating large contracts and working through many union negotiations has given me the background needed and the desire to give back to my community by serving in local government. My desire to run for office in Moab is a result of my wanting to give back to my community, help with the many local issues surrounding housing, and give all people in Moab a voice.

**What’s an example of a great ordinance or political move you’ve seen in the last few years here in Grand County? What is one you believe was a misstep?**

Good: I believe that the HDHO was a good ordinance at the beginning that could have done much more for our unacceptable housing shortage if it had not been limited by so many different ideologies and agendas.

Bad: I believe that the lack of desire to work with all sides on the current problems we are facing from an extremely busy year in tourism, and then an attempt to stop all tourism in a hasty reaction to the many visitors we saw following COVID by not spending TRT taxes on wise advertising has led to what the

current Grand County Strategic Development Director has described as a looming economic recession in Moab. [*Chris Baird is the county’s strategic development director. -ed.*]

**What is your strategy to evaluate whether a proposal or ordinance is worth implementing?**

I believe that any proposal or ordinance should be considered for the value it has for all sides. We cannot continue to allow our locals to be overrun by a lack of proper planning, nor can we continue to govern with knee-jerk reactions to problems that come from that lack of planning. We must bring all sides to the table and solve our problems, rather than continue to end up in litigation due to the hasty, less-than-well-thought-out governance of our community.

**What three steps would you take in the next year to put our county on a firm footing for the future?**

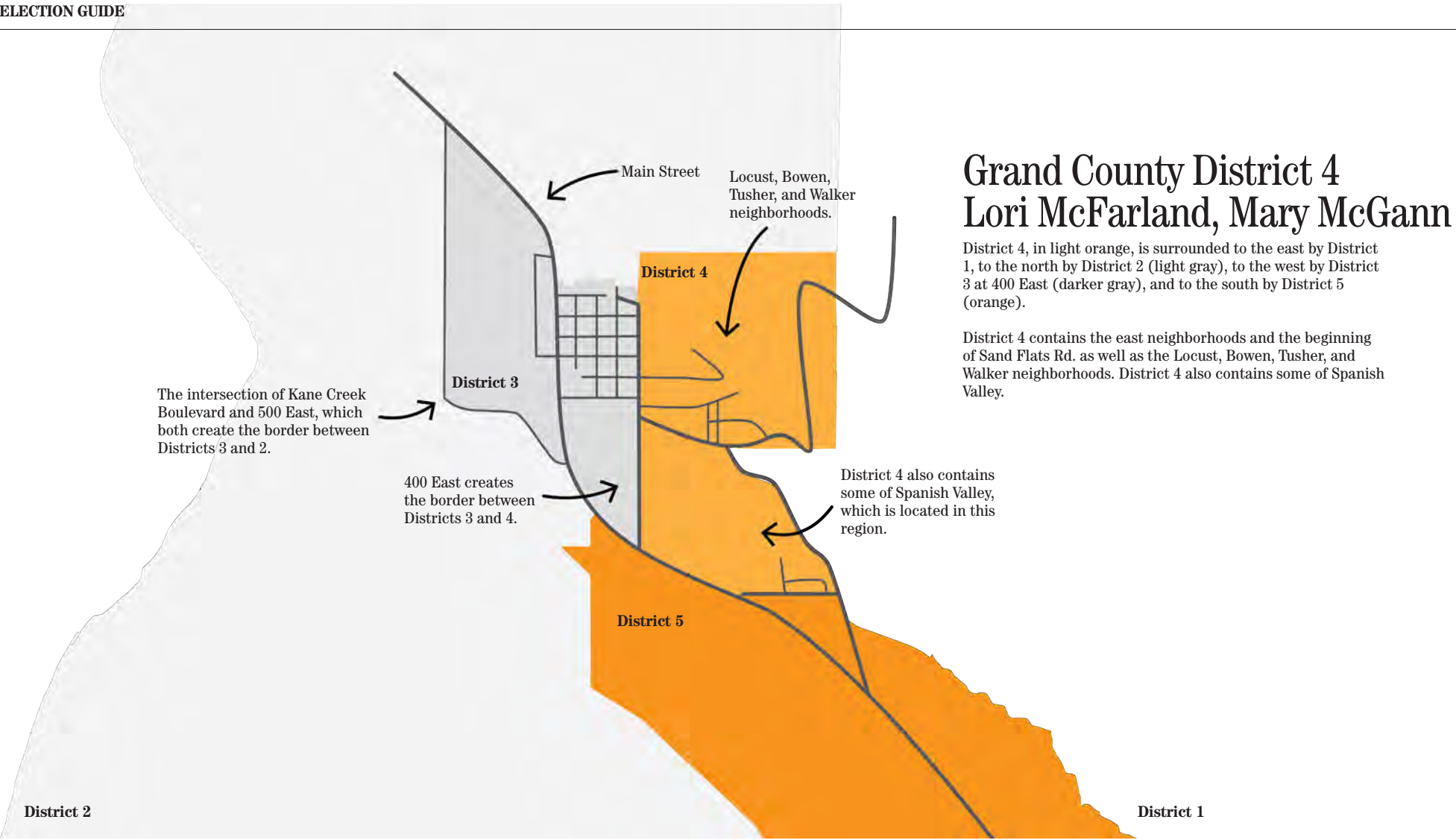
1: I would bring all our local business and political leaders into the discussion on what the future needs to look like surrounding the quality of life affecting our locals and businesses regarding the UTV debate. We cannot solve this problem by leaving half of those involved feeling like they need to litigate, nor can we allow our locals’ lives to be so inundated that people threaten to take matters into their own hands.

2: I would put a higher priority on solving our unacceptable housing shortage. We must start addressing solid solutions many are waiting for, hoping that something will get accomplished by increasing our stock of available housing. The current idea of a housing overlay, although not perfect, will help many while we work towards increasing our housing supply.

3: We must maintain a healthy economic base so our children and grandchildren can have the option to follow their career choices locally rather than looking elsewhere. Yes, housing, water, and better transparency in local government are all issues candidates are heralding but if we do not maintain a stable economy we will continue to export our youth and that must not happen.

In closing, we must put people before politics.





## Grand County District 4 Lori McFarland, Mary McGann

District 4, in light orange, is surrounded to the east by District 1, to the north by District 2 (light gray), to the west by District 3 at 400 East (darker gray), and to the south by District 5 (orange).  
  
District 4 contains the east neighborhoods and the beginning of Sand Flats Rd. as well as the Locust, Bowen, Tusher, and Walker neighborhoods. District 4 also contains some of Spanish Valley.



### Lori McFarland

**What’s your history in Grand County? What sort of work have you done professionally? What made you decide to get involved with local government?**  
Having a diverse background gives me a unique view of the current political crisis our community is facing. I earned a degree in International Relations, with a focus on critical problem-solving in government. Studying in the Middle East and witnessing the divided community between Palestinians and Israelis while volunteering at an orphanage for Palestinian children, I saw first-hand the tragic results of unresolved conflict.  
I worked in Washington, D.C., as an intern for Arizona Congressman Eldon Rudd, and was involved with problem-solving at a federal level. I am familiar with how to connect with Washington. My career continued after being hired by a startup airline where I worked to solve problems in quality control, yield management, customer satisfaction, human resources, and employee recruiting.  
27 years ago, I took a seasonal job as a river guide. The beauty of Grand County prompted my husband and me to stay. We raised two children here and built a business that offers others the opportunity to experience these indescribable back-county soul-connecting experiences.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to build a business and be part of the community. It is becoming more difficult for families to start and grow businesses here for the long term; I hope we can remedy that.  
  
**What’s an example of a great ordinance or political move you’ve seen in the last few years here in Grand County? What is one you believe was a misstep?**  
During the pandemic, Ford Motor Company was unable to source wiring harnesses, so thousands of trucks sat waiting. In spite of this, Ford spent millions of dollars advertising the same trucks. Why did Ford do that? They understood if they didn’t spend money keeping Ford on potential customers’ minds, when their trucks became available, customers would not be thinking about Ford. Ford continued their marketing campaign so that one day, they could again sell their fabulous trucks.  
Grand County is mandated by statute to spend a certain percentage of TRT taxes (tax on tourists) to bring new visitors to Moab. There are millions of unspent dollars sitting in an account. Our commission does not want to spend that money to encourage visitation to Moab. Unfortunately, the Grand County economy is a “one trick pony.” Currently, the only economic engine available is tourism, but our county commission shortsightedly decided not to make the mandatory spend. Now there is an economic downturn, but vacationers are not thinking about Moab because we haven’t spent the dollars to bring visitors to Moab. A Sept. 21 article in the Times Independent quoted Chris Baird “projected a roughly \$850,000 drop in revenues from the tax estimates.” Not investing in the only economic engine Grand County currently has was a conscious choice and a misstep.

**What is your strategy to evaluate whether a proposal or ordinance is worth implementing?**  
Ordinances and proposals that are collaborative with all affected stakeholders given a seat at the table would be the goal. I do not believe the uniformly unanimous decisions reached by our commission indicate creative dissent or collaboration.  
  
**What three steps would you take in the next year to put our county on a firm footing for the future?**  
I would fight to create a long-term sustainable economic engine.  
I will fight to plan and spend every tax dollar to support a sustainable long-term economy.  
I will fight to preserve and protect our natural beauty so we can continue to enjoy the long-term benefits of a visitor economy.

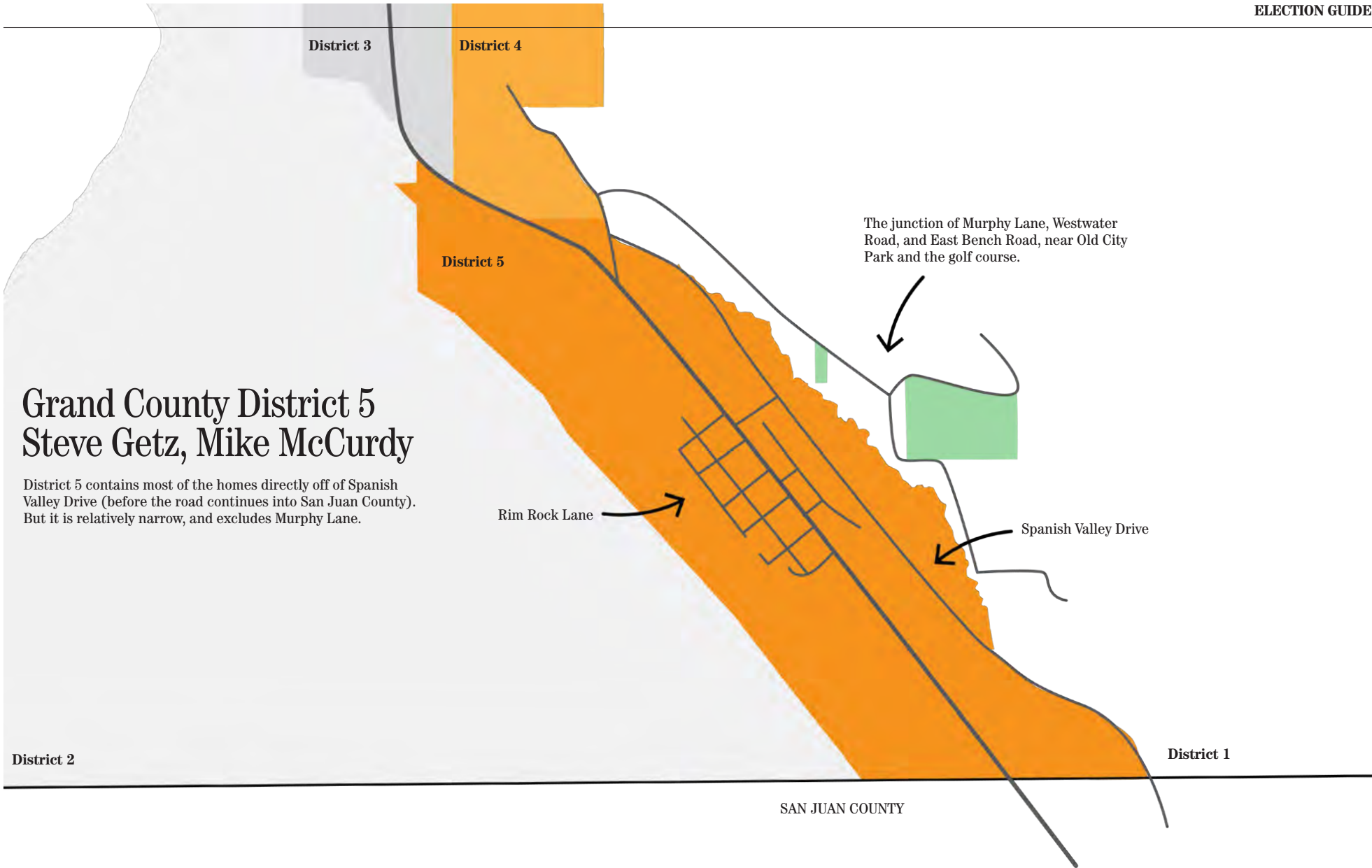


### Mary McGann

**What’s your history in Grand County? What sort of work have you done professionally? What made you decide to get involved with local government?**  
My name is Mary Elizabeth Mullen McGann, you can’t get more Irish than that. I was born in Leadville, Colorado, and moved to Moab when I was in kindergarten and completed my public education here. I went to the University of Idaho, began my teaching career in Idaho, and returned to Moab in 1980. My entire adult life has been dedicated to family, friends and service. My passion for service helped me be an effective teacher, mother, and CEO of a children’s foundation and now it helps me be an effective commissioner. My mother, Ferne Mullen, served as a Grand County Commissioner; my dad, John Mullen, served as a member of the Moab City Council. My father and mother taught me that one of the greatest services you can do is run for office and serve with a desire to help your community, not for your own benefit. Public service must be more than doing a job efficiently and honestly. It must be a complete dedication to the people. I am passionate about the people that live here and call Grand County home. I am dedicated to maintaining and improving the quality of life for Grand County’s citizens.

**What’s an example of a great ordinance or political move you’ve seen in the last few years here in Grand County? What is one you believe was a misstep?**  
Ordinances we have passed that I am proud of are the High-Density Housing Overlay (HDHO) ordinance and the Overnight Accommodation Overlay (OAO) ordinance. The HDHO ordinance incentivizes developers to create housing for people who work and live in Grand County. The OAO ordinance protects residential neighborhoods from commercial nightly-rentals developments. One project I am pleased with is obtaining funding that expedited the tailings removal from the Colorado riverbanks, leading to completion 10 years ahead of schedule. I am also gratified that I was instrumental in the creation of the Utahraptor State Park. This park will increase tax revenue and preserve a dinosaur quarry and historical sites.  
A misstep was not more effectively working with UTV enthusiasts and businesses.  
  
**What is your strategy to evaluate whether a proposal or ordinance is worth implementing?**  
The basis I evaluate whether a proposal or ordinance is worth implementing is if they protect the health, safety, and quality of life of the residents of Grand County.  
  
**What three steps would you take in the next year to put our county on a firm footing for the future?**  
Continue to diversify our economy while protecting our tourist economy and providing a quality community for our residents. I will continue to work on affordable housing by supporting Arroyo Crossing, High-Density Housing Overlay Development, Community Rebuilds and the Housing Authority of Grand County. I will work with the county, state, and federal officials to establish policies that will protect our water and address climate change.





# Grand County District 5

## Steve Getz, Mike McCurdy

District 5 contains most of the homes directly off of Spanish Valley Drive (before the road continues into San Juan County). But it is relatively narrow, and excludes Murphy Lane.



### Steve Getz

**What’s your history in Grand County? What sort of work have you done professionally? What made you decide to get involved with local government?**

I’ve owned a variety of different businesses; air quality testing, environmental lab, boat storage, and gift shop. Three were successful; one failed. Many lessons were learned from success and from failure. The skills to be successful in business are the skills a commissioner needs: long-term vision, listening skills to understand a wide variety of people, the ability to formulate and then communicate new ideas/solutions, and the ability to build consensus with diverse groups. Terri and I retired here, drawn by the small town and Terri’s family connections.

Water is the issue that got me off the couch and made me decide to run. My family has been involved in water management for several generations. I hope my history and knowledge about water can help our valley save a lot of wondering, worrying, and uncertainty.

**What’s an example of a great ordinance or political move you’ve seen in the last few years here in Grand County? What is one you believe was a misstep?**

The best: the effort the county has made to clean up the uranium mill tailings. The amount of effort by the commission (council) and lobbying to speed up the removal process is commendable. To have the project completed decades sooner... Good job!

A misstep? Not recognizing the looming housing issue. It’s not just Grand County, many communities are facing the same problem. As we work on the issue, it would be prudent to watch other communities’ ideas, and see what works for them.

**What is your strategy to evaluate whether a proposal or ordinance is worth implementing?** I would use KISS: keep it simple. If there is an issue that needs to be solved, was the issue carefully defined? Does the ordinance solve the issue without adding unrelated requirements? Is the ordinance easy to understand, comply with, and enforce? Were the people that will deal with the new ordinance consulted? Include the county staff, the public using the ordinance, and code enforcement staff or police. Does the new ordinance cause new problems?

**What three steps would you take in the next year to put our county on a firm footing for the future?**

Short-term: Let’s get the affordable housing issue settled. What type of housing is needed? River guides that need a camping spot and a place to park a car? Seasonal workers here all season? Year-round, full-time workers? Each group needs different housing. How many of each housing type do we need? How much is already in the planning/building pipeline now?

Long-term: Water. Time for talk is over, it is time to act. First, I would help the community recognize that we live in a “valley-wide water system.” Mother Nature doesn’t care about all the political lines we have drawn throughout the valley. In order to manage our water, the entire valley needs to work together, as one, with cohesive, comprehensive goals.

Monitoring and data collection. Our aquifers are like a checking account. Mother Nature deposits water, we make withdrawals. We need to “check the balance” with a well-designed monitoring system. Consistent, accurate, and timely accounting is critical for good water management. If we plan early and with a well-designed system, we can include water for all our residents and Mother Nature.



### Mike McCurdy

**What’s your history in Grand County? What sort of work have you done professionally? What made you decide to get involved with local government?**

I was born and raised in Grand County, along with my wife, Ronnie McCurdy, and our 5 children. Growing up and raising our children here has been our life’s focus as we see this as our HOME. Most of you know me from managing City Market, but now I’d like you to know me for serving my community to ensure this remains a great place for all of our children to grow and prosper. For that to happen, we need to address the concerns of our citizens to shift political focus on basic shelter needs, realistic water use, and a balanced economy with an accessible government. Our community needs helpful, long-term, and clear policies NOW.

**What’s an example of a great ordinance or political move you’ve seen in the last few years here in Grand County? What is one you believe was a misstep?**

As a father in this community, it was wonderful to see our children being priorities again with the return of a school resource officer. Our children are the most vulnerable and we as parents trust our school districts to keep them safe. Seeing our local government reinstate this role has been relieving.

A misstep I see is also an opportunity as we move forward, some of our citizens do not feel represented in critical politi-

cal discussions, and residents are finding it overly cumbersome to find information on frequently asked questions on these issues. This is a great opportunity for a review and update on providing this information with a focus on accessibility.

**What is your strategy to evaluate whether a proposal or ordinance is worth implementing?** My priority is to get Grand County’s long legacy of people of different political opinions working together.

Most people are willing to compromise to resolve the issues we face in a manner that benefits all of us. Often, we find this willingness to compromise missing in the political process, which can become detrimental to the process, and it is our citizens who suffer. My strategy is simple; to bring the voice of the people back to our County Commission. Focusing on a collaborative approach between those with the subject matter expertise and those who would be most affected by the choices made, in an open and timely manner is how we gain a path forward for all of us. This is my first and foremost priority.

**What three steps would you take in the next year to put our county on a firm footing for the future?**

It is important to foster open communications to ensure the public feels their voices are part of the political decisions that impact this community. Responsibly managing our water supplies with realistic and accurate data for current and future use. Removing blocks to our building process to allow those builders who are ready and willing to build affordable housing NOW is critical to alleviating our outrageous housing crisis. I care deeply for my community, my home, and will do all I can to protect our collaborative legacy to work together on solutions that provide a future that includes our children as well as ourselves. I’m from here, for here.



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MOAB SUN NEWS    OCT. 21-27, 2022

# Opinion

PAGE FOURTEEN

**Opinion policy**

Articles and letters in the Opinion section represent differing perspectives on issues and do not have the endorsement or represent the views of the Moab Sun News. Submit your letter on [www.moabsunnews.com](http://www.moabsunnews.com) or by emailing [moabsunnewseditor@gmail.com](mailto:moabsunnewseditor@gmail.com). Letters fewer than 500 words that do not need to be factually verified are considered first and edited least. Letters must be accompanied by the author's name, mailing address and phone number. We do not print anonymous or pseudonymous letters. No libelous statements. We do allow letters that have been submitted to other publications. We reserve the right to edit any letter for grammar, length and clarity.

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

## “Correcting Moab Valley Fire Protection District misinformation”

We would like to take this opportunity to correct some misinformation circulating in our community in relation to the Moab Valley Fire Protection District. Transparency is important to us, and our door is always open to constituents who would like to discuss how the District is operated.

In 2021, after going through proper public noticing and hearing, the District’s Board of Commissioners voted to institute a tax increase for the District beginning in 2022. This increase was the first increase by the District in 8 years. The approved increase was 61.89% above the previous year’s tax revenue and amounted to an additional \$392,405.00 in revenue for our annual budget. Over the previous 5 years, the District’s tax rate on constituents’ tax bills had steadily fallen from .000547 in 2016 to .000382 in 2021. The approved tax increase set a tax rate of .000543 which brought the tax rate back near the rate in 2016. The increase amounts to an additional \$3.31 per month for a residential property valued at \$305,000.00.

The Fire District has been active in utilizing funds other than tax revenue for its operations. Station 3 on Beeman Lane was funded by impact fees which are fees paid by new development. The District is currently pursuing the use of impact fees for other allowed expenses such as equipment and infrastructure. The District has also utilized funds made available by the Community Impact Board (CIB). Station 1 located on 100 East was funded by a low-interest loan from CIB, and CIB recently awarded the District a combination grant and low-interest loan to assist in the purchase of an engine that will replace some of our aging equipment. The District continues to find grant opportunities to fund its operations.

By State statute, Grand County is required to provide fire protection services to areas outside established Fire Protection Districts. Grand County currently chooses to contract with the Moab Fire Department to meet this obligation. Grand County has other avenues for providing this service, including creating a separate Special Service District. The avenue being discussed most recently is for the Moab Fire Department to expand its District boundaries. There are advantages and disadvantages to expansion, and after 2 years of research and due diligence, the Commissioners have chosen to further pursue the route of expansion. This decision was made in 2021 and the District has contracted with Pathway Associates to assist in the process.

Expansion brings additional tax revenue from new sources, but it also brings added expenses. For example, Moab Fire will absorb the Thompson Fire Department along with all expenses for that Department. Also with expansion, Moab Fire has to be prepared to be fully engaged in incidents taking place at the same time and spread across our County. This requires an increase in resources and thus, an increase in expenses.

Moab Fire’s priority in considering expansion is to ensure the level of fire protection within our current District boundaries is not negatively impacted. Moab Fire is primarily a volunteer department, and expansion could necessitate a shift toward paid firefighters. Moab Fire Department currently saves taxpayers money by functioning as best as possible as a volunteer department. Our volunteer firefighters are extraordinary, and we are extremely grateful that these members of our community with other full-time jobs, families and the struggles of making ends meet will drop everything at a moment’s notice to protect our community.

We urge anyone with questions or concerns about the Moab Fire Department to contact us.

*Respectfully,*  
*Chief TJ Brewer*  
*and the administrative staff*  
*of Moab Valley Fire Protection District*

## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENT

**Saturday, October 22, 2022 from 8AM - 12PM**  
**Community Recycle Center at 1000 Sand Flats Road, Moab, Utah 84532**

**ACCEPTABLE WASTE**

- Solvents/Paint Thinners
- Gasoline/Fuels
- Motor Oil
- Lead-Acid & Automotive Batteries
- Aerosol Cans
- Oil-Based Paint
- Wood Stain
- Pesticides/Herbicides
- Glues/Adhesives
- Mercury Containing Devices
- Photographic Chemicals
- All-Purpose Cleaners
- Fire Extinguishers
- Compressed Gas Tanks

**NOT ACCEPTABLE WASTE**

- Containers Over 5 Gallons
- Smoke Detectors
- Ammunition/Explosives
- Asbestos Containing Materials
- PCB-Related Materials
- Medical/Biological Waste
- Radioactive Waste
- Industrial/Commercial Waste
- Municipal Waste
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**Do NOT Mix Wastes**  
Keep Wastes in Original Containers  
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**This event is FREE to the PUBLIC and is for GRAND COUNTY RESIDENTS ONLY.**

\* These items can be recycled at our Electronic & Universal Waste collection events held every Saturday from 8am to 1pm.  
\*\*Latex paint can be placed in regular trash when dried properly (mixed with kitty litter, sawdust, or shredded newspapers).

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

“Moabites: Come together in support of one another”

The residents of Moab and Grand county are extremely passionate about their community. We understand that during election season those passions often get amplified, after all, our ability to vote for candidates is fundamental to our democracy and one of the most powerful tools we have as local citizens. Although we applaud everyone’s passion for and desire to protect our town (after all, those were key components in both our decision to run for elected office last year), we feel compelled to remind everyone of the saying that “even the best of intentions can have unintended consequences.”

Both of us have heard from residents who say that they would like to engage more in the civic process, but that they are hesitant to do so because of potential attacks they may face from others. At a time when we are all facing so many large-scale issues, local elected officials need to hear a variety of perspectives that represent the diversity of people across our city and county. The more information we have available to us, the better decisions we are able to make. This reduces potential blind spots and enables us to meet the most important requirement of our position as City Councilors: to try to represent the will of the people.

We would also like to remind everyone that the people who are running for elected office are not just candidates, but also our friends, neighbors, family mem-

bers, and, simply, fellow members of this community. After the elections are over, win or lose, they will still continue to be all of those things.

We believe that the sign of a good leader is someone who leads by example, so let us serve as proof that it is possible to disagree and to still hold a tremendous amount of respect for each other. Although we may have already found ourselves at the opposite end of some votes in our short time on the council, we have never let that get in the way of our understanding that the other person’s decisions are being made with the best interests of our community at heart, even if those decisions sometimes lead us down different paths. As a small and close-knit community, it is doubly important that we allow the real-life words and actions of individuals to define who they are, not our own assumptions.

So, as we move forward we ask that our community remembers that in moments of crises Moabites always come together in support of one another. Let’s all work to make this a reality year-round, not just when floodwaters lap at our door.

Councilman Jason Taylor  
Councilman Lukasz Wojciechowski



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- Reimplement a Drug Task Force team
- Work towards common sense noise enforcement

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COSMO'S CORNER

Celebrating family



Hello and good meow, brothers and sisters. It is Cosmo the library cat, here to invite you to join the latest reading challenge from the Grand County Public Library. This one is called the “Family Stories Reading and Activity Challenge” and it’s a chance to celebrate our family histories!

To complete the challenge, just read for at least four hours between October 17 and November 30. Reading to someone else—such as your favorite cat!—counts, as does listening to someone read to you. Earn a

prize just for registering and a second prize when you finish. You’ll also earn virtual badges for participating in family-themed challenges.

You can listen to stories from loved ones, record your own origin story, and read books about families of all shapes and sizes. My own origin story is a fascinating one. I was blessed to inherit the good looks, sharp reflexes, and natural charm that run in many cat families. My ancestors parlayed those talents into successful careers as house, barn and alley cats, and my cousins

and littermates followed in their pawsteps. But I knew from an early age that destiny would lead me on a different path. With support and encouragement from my dear family, I have achieved the lofty position of Library Cat and author of a wildly popular newspaper column. I’m excited for the opportunity to read and ponder about the importance of families, both biological and chosen. As part of my chosen library family, I hope you will join this challenge with me!

Register at <https://tinyurl.com/gcplreads>.

I'm Mary McGann and I'm asking for your vote for County Commissioner in District 4.

I'm also encouraging everyone to remember that it takes courage to run for office, and the people running in Grand County are your neighbors. We all want to make things better for the community, even if we have different ideas for how to do that.

Let's rise above the ugly discord of national politics. We are better than that. When you vote, please consider voting for me.

Mary McGann  
GRAND COUNTY COMMISSION

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SCIENCE MOAB

# Building beefy sustainability plans

Science Moab talk to Will Munger and Maria Stahl about experimental ranching



**SCIENCE MOAB**

As the climate becomes warmer and drier in the Colorado Plateau, traditional Angus-cattle ranching is facing challenges. This week, we talk with Utah State University Ph.D. students Will Munger and Maria Stahl about their work with Criollo cattle at Dugout Ranch in San Juan County: Criollo are better adapted to arid climate, can forage for more native vegetation, and are able to travel farther from water sources than Angus cattle.

Munger and Stahl's research on the cattle is part of an effort to move toward more sustainable ranching in the desert southwest.

**Science Moab: What's been happening recently at the Dugout Ranch?**  
**Will Munger:** As part of my internship with the climate adaptation science program, I've worked on the Dugout Ranch as a cowboy. Something that's very unique about Dugout Ranch is the Canyonlands Research Center. This supports students from all over the Intermountain West. This summer, they had one of their first rounds of Indigenous students who participated in ecological restoration and research. This is also a gathering place for a number of different groups, including local ranchers, ranch managers from the Ute Mountain Ute tribe, and the Diné College Range Club who came up to learn about the Raramuri Criollo cattle project. That meeting brought together ranchers who are interested in developing more climate-adaptive ranching practices that are lighter on the land and cognizant of the changes occurring under a warming climate.

**Science Moab: Can you share a little bit about the Criollo cattle and what's going on with them?**  
**Maria Stahl:** These cattle are descended from cattle that were brought over from Spain in the 1400s. This Spanish expedition brought these cows to Mexico, and then let them do their own thing. These cattle became really well adapted to hot dry climates, like those found in Mexico. So these are what we call a heritage breed, a really old breed that developed on its own and adapted to a particular climate. The Colorado Plateau is a hotspot for climate change, so it's becoming really hot and dry faster than most other places in the country. This makes the Colorado Plateau a really difficult place to produce livestock using conventional means. If we can bring in this her-



itage breed that is well adapted to these climates, they might do really well on the Colorado Plateau with fewer inputs from ranching. We've seen at the Jornada Experimental Range down in New Mexico, that they can have a more diverse diet. They're not just selecting for particular grasses, and they can navigate more rugged terrain than conventional breeds like angus.

**Science Moab: How do you study their movements and behavior?**  
**Stahl:** Will and I work closely with Matt Redd at the Ranch, and several professors here at Utah State University, to answer those questions. We put GPS collars on these cows before turning them loose. Using the data from these GPS collars, I can build models of which particular landscape factors are influencing their movement.

**Munger:** The hypothesis is that Criollo cattle are eating more shrubs as opposed to just grass, they're moving further from water and utilizing terrain that's more steep and rugged than conventional breeds could use. When I have been traveling out there, I have certainly seen some of that. By partnering with scientists, we get other ways to validate that data. So the spatial models are part of that, and another part is that we'll take fecal samples while we're collaring them. We can use genetic analysis to understand what species they're eating as well.

**Science Moab: Are you also monitoring other breeds of cattle?**  
**Munger:** The Red Angus that have been on the ranch for several decades now do have GPS collars on them, so there is some monitoring of their spatial movement. And we're trying to understand if there is a difference between these Red Angus and these Criollos. So those are kind of the two sample populations that will be compared in the study.

**Stahl:** So we have 20 Red Angus collared, and we have 20 Criollo collared, so an equal sample size of each of the breeds that we can compare, and all of these different metrics of movement, fecal samples, etc. We're focusing on one particular pasture

that's all native vegetation. We have very fine GPS data on this pasture. We leave these collars on year-round, so we can use the data from these other pastures that Will just mentioned to get a broader idea of their movements year-round.

**Science Moab: Do you have any results yet about what the Criollo might be doing?**  
**Stahl:** I haven't analyzed any of the data I've collected yet, but when I built some spatial models last fall with older data, we didn't see a whole lot of spatial partitioning: the areas that the Angus were using were kind of the same areas that the Criollo were using. The Red Angus herd has been here for decades, which means that they really know the landscape. They're familiar with the best patches to graze on, whereas Criollo are not as familiar with the terrain. They might follow the Angus around the pasture. We got new Criollo this past spring, and I'm curious to see if those Criollo behave differently than the Criollo that have been here longer.

**Munger:** The reason that these cattle might be more climate-adaptive and light on the landscape is that they're ranging further from water. Cows have a tendency to hang out around water, but if cows left to their own devices are just sitting on the creek bank, you can see some real degradation of riparian conditions. And this is the importance of having cowboys and cowgirls out on the range constantly moving these cows because you're able to take advantage of spatio-temporal heterogeneity, which is a fancy way of saying feeding in different pastures. I think the main point here is that we need to be developing cattle genetics that are locally adapted to ecological conditions and have active range management to get the best of both worlds.

*Science Moab is a nonprofit dedicated to engaging community members and visitors with the science happening in Southeast Utah and the Colorado Plateau. To learn more and listen to the rest of this interview, visit [www.sciencemoab.org/radio](http://www.sciencemoab.org/radio).*



RECIPE COLUMN

# Hunting & Cooking: Pronghorn Pumpkin Ale Chili



By **LINDSEY BARTOSH**  
*Special Contributor*

I'll admit it, I am a fall fad junkie. Pumpkin gimmicks hosted by Starbucks? Sign me up for a pumpkin latte or autumn apple Frappuccino. Temperature drops below 80 degrees Fahrenheit during the day? I'm all about declaring "Sweater Weather" season officially here with any burnt orange or royal purple knitted sweater from my closet. I love fall fads.

Besides falling for the com-

mercialization of fall, I also really do love the flavors that go with the changing leaves and cooler temperatures: pumpkin, apple, squash, cinnamon, maple, pear, nutmeg, ginger. Basically, anything that leads to cozy and comforting feelings is something worth looking forward to in my opinion.

I also think wild game proteins and the flavors of fall are definitely in a symbiotic relationship, and it is a relationship that is fun to explore as a home chef and even more enjoyable to

share with your friends and family around the evening dinner table. One of my main purposes for learning more about wild game and cooking was so I could share the dishes with my family, and I think this pronghorn pumpkin ale chili is one of my family's fall favorites.

*Lindsey Bartosh, an eighth-generation Moab girl, loves hiking, hunting, fishing, cooking, writing, photography and working on her website [www.huntingandcooking.com](http://www.huntingandcooking.com).*

- Pronghorn Pumpkin Ale Chili**  
**Ingredients**
- 1 pound ground pronghorn, deer, or elk meat
  - 1 large onion, chopped
  - 3 cloves garlic, minced
  - 1 tablespoon oil
  - 3 large bell peppers (any color)
  - 1 bottle of pumpkin ale beer
  - 3 cans beans of choice (black, kidney, pinto, etc.)
  - 1 can pureed pumpkin
  - 1 28 oz. can of crushed tomatoes
  - 2 tablespoons chili powder
  - 1 tablespoon cumin
  - 1 tablespoon oregano
  - 1 tablespoon coriander
  - 1 tablespoon salt
  - 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
  - 2 tablespoons tomato paste
  - 1 tablespoon hot sauce (optional)
  - 1 to 2 teaspoons cinnamon
  - 1 to 2 teaspoons nutmeg

- Instructions**
1. In a large skillet over medium high heat, add oil.
  2. To heated oil, add chopped onions and garlic. Cook for two to three minutes.
  3. Add chopped bell peppers and cook additional two to three minutes.
  4. Add ground pronghorn and cook until browned, five to seven minutes.
  5. Turn heat up to high, and pour in entire bottle of pumpkin ale. Let cook for a minute and stir to break browned bits from bottom of pan. Turn pan to low and set aside.

6. To a large crockpot, add remaining ingredients.
7. Add meat and pepper mixture to crock pot. Stir.
8. Set crock pot to low for six to eight hours.
9. Enjoy with toppings such as shredded cheese or sour cream.

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Moab Museum is grateful to the research efforts of musician and author **Gerald Elias**, and **Nick Sheedy**, Lead Genealogist of the PBS series "**Finding Your Roots**" with Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr.

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## STUDENTS

# Congrats to the MLH Middle School students of the month!



The Margaret L. Hopkin Middle School Students of the Month are Ruston Peterson and Gemma Phillips.

Seventh-grader Ruston Peterson is an enthusiastic student who really enjoys school, staff says. Ruston is very conscious of his school work and gives 100% at all times. Ruston is always willing to help other students and doesn't need recognition when doing it. Ruston always has a smile on his face and is friendly to multiple groups at school. He is polite and respectful to all

students and staff and brings a positive vibe to the school. He likes to play baseball and hunt. Ruston has one brother named Lane and 9 goats, 2 dogs, and 2 cats at home. His family must be animal lovers! Ruston's advice to his peers? "Be nice and try to get good grades."

MLHMS staff say that eighth-grader Gemma Phillips demonstrates the qualities that it takes to be a successful student: she is reliable, mature, hardworking and helpful. She is always willing to help both her

peers and her teachers and is considerate in the way that she interacts with others. Gemma is an exceptional athlete and student but is still humble. She likes to play soccer and basketball and she runs cross country. Gemma likes to bake and cook and has 3 cats, a dog, a twin sister, and a brother at home. Gemma's advice to her classmates is: "Work hard and try to stay focused. Don't leave homework to the last minute."

Congratulations, Ruston and Gemma!

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OBITUARY

Jan (Graci) Tribble

February 28, 1953 - October 13, 2022

Jan (Graci) Tribble died peacefully at the Canyonlands Care Center on October 13, 2022.

Jan was born on February 28, 1953, in Atlanta, Georgia, but she grew up in many different places back east. As an adult, she lived in New Orleans for many years and worked in personnel at Tulane University. Jan earned a master's degree in early childhood education and was an early childhood educator and teacher trainer. Jan was happily married for 10 years and enjoyed many opportunities to travel both in the U.S. and overseas with her husband.

In 1994, Jan felt an urge to visit Utah and 'destiny,' in the form of a bookstore owner in Blanding, brought her to Moab. Their conversation brought up the differences in culture and geographics in northern Utah and how Jan might find the community and country she was looking for in Moab. Like many people visiting Moab, she found she wanted to stay. She worked for the National Park Service and in outdoor education.

Jan left Moab when her



mother passed away in the late 1990s, returned to Moab and then went to Houston, Texas, for 3 years to take care of her father until he passed.

Jan loved to travel the backroads of the southwestern United States. She lived in Capitan, New Mexico, for 4 years and volunteered at the local library.

For the past 15 years, Jan used Moab as a home base while continuing to travel and being a valued friend, housesitter and pet-sitter for many families. She volunteered at several businesses in town including StarShine Gifts, Sgt. Pepper's Music & Video, ABC & Beyond Books and the Grand

County Public Library.

Jan was known by her friends in Moab as an incredible free spirit, not tied down by society's usual expectations or definitions. This also translated into her love of traveling and experiencing nature and the land in all its wildness and uniqueness.

She is survived by her dearly loved brother, Phil, and his wife, Cathy, of Kinderhook, New York; as well as their children, Todd, Taylor and Rheri; and their children, who live in the area.

Our heartfelt gratitude to Canyonlands Care Center for providing exceptional loving care.

Donations in her memory can be given to the St. Francis Episcopal Food Pantry in Moab by calling 435-259-5831. Details for a memorial will be announced at a later date.

*"When I got to New Mexico, that was mine. As soon as I saw it, that was my country. I'd never seen anything like it before, but it fitted to me exactly. It's something that's in the air - it's different. The sky is different, the wind is different" - Georgia O'Keeffe*

#StoptheSpread **Saturday**

A community directory of COVID-19 resources

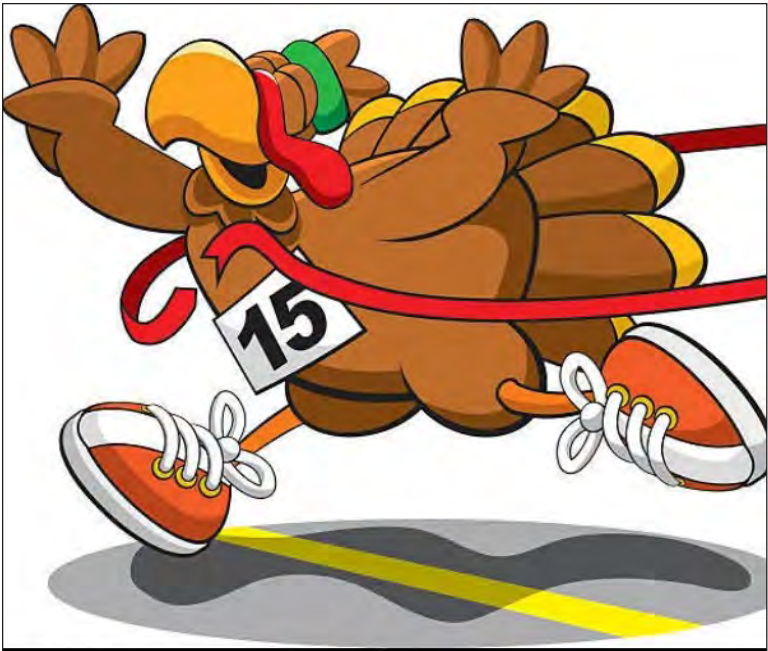
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# Actions Speak Louder than Words

## A Message from the Grand County Democratic Party

Voters prefer that campaigns focus on issues and ideas, rather than mudslinging and innuendo. Which is why we were very surprised to see our Republican colleagues enthusiastically launch a series of Facebook and newspaper attack ads, ranging from merely misleading to outright false.

Republicans aren't talking about local issues because their candidates have staked out some very unpopular opinions on important ones, such as:

**Housing.** We need to build more workforce housing for locals and fewer second homes, but the Republican-backed candidate (Bill Winfield) publicly opposed a city plan to require that workforce housing be part of new large developments. Emily Campbell (Bill's opponent) supports requirements and incentives to ensure that these developments include workforce housing, and has a strong record of promoting policies to help house our locals as a volunteer Planning Commissioner.

**Noise.** Almost everyone, from Moab residents to state legislators, thinks we should be enforcing noise ordinances to prevent UTV noise in residential neighborhoods. But another Republican-backed candidate (UTV business owner Lori McFarland) has filed a lawsuit against the county over the noise ordinance and other efforts to limit UTV noise near our homes. Mary McGann (Lori's opponent) supports these reasonable measures that attempt to restore some quiet to our homes.

**We support candidates who will prioritize the interests of Grand County residents and fight for our community.**

**Republicans would prefer to change the subject.**

**Don't let them.**

We urge all voters to learn about the candidates and vote for the ones they think are most likely to work hard to keep our community a livable place.

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## CURIOUS KIDS

# What is déjà vu?

A question from Atharva P., age 10, Begaluru, India

By ANNE CLEARY  
*Professor of Cognitive Psychology,  
Colorado State University*

Have you ever had that weird feeling that you've experienced the same exact situation before, even though that's impossible? Sometimes it can even seem like you're reliving something that already happened. This phenomenon, known as déjà vu, has puzzled philosophers, neurologists and writers for a very long time.

Starting in the late 1800s, many theories began to emerge regarding what might cause déjà vu, which means "already seen" in French. People thought maybe it stemmed from mental dysfunction or perhaps a type of brain problem. But the topic did not reach the realm of science until quite recently.

Early in this millennium, a scientist named Alan Brown decided to conduct a review of everything researchers had written about déjà vu until that point. Much of what he could find had a paranormal flavor, having to do with the supernatural—things like past lives or psychic abilities. But he also found studies that surveyed regular people about their déjà vu experiences. From all these papers, Brown was able to glean some basic findings on the déjà vu phenomenon.

Brown determined that roughly two thirds of people experience déjà vu at some point in their lives. He determined that the most common trigger of déjà vu is a scene or place, and the next most common trigger is a conversation. Brown's review brought the topic of déjà vu into the realm of more mainstream science, because it appeared in both a scientific journal that scientists who study cognition tend to read, and also in a book aimed at scientists.

Prompted by Brown's work, my own research team began conducting experiments aimed at testing hypotheses about possible mechanisms of déjà vu. We investigated a near century-old hypothesis that suggested déjà vu can happen when there's a spatial resemblance between a current scene and an unrecalled scene in your memory. Psychologists called this the Gestalt familiarity hypothesis.

For example, imagine you're passing the nursing station in a hospital unit on your way to visit a sick friend. Although you've never been to this hospital before, you are struck with a feeling that you have. The underlying cause for this experience of déjà vu could be that the layout of the scene, including the placement of the furniture and the particular objects within the space, have the same layout as a different scene that you did experience in the past. According to the Gestalt

familiarity hypothesis, if that previous situation with a similar layout to the current one doesn't come to mind, you might be left only with a strong feeling of familiarity for the current one.

To investigate this idea in the laboratory, my team used virtual reality to place people within scenes. That way we could manipulate the environments people found themselves in — some scenes shared the same spatial layout while otherwise being distinct. As predicted, déjà vu was more likely to happen when people were in a scene that contained the same spatial arrangement of elements as an earlier scene they viewed but didn't recall.

This research suggests that one contributing factor to déjà vu can be spatial resemblance of a new scene to one in memory that fails to be consciously called to mind at the moment. However, it does not mean that spatial resemblance is the only cause of déjà vu. Very likely, many factors can contribute to what makes a scene or a situation feel familiar. More research is underway to investigate additional possible factors at play in this mysterious phenomenon.

*This article was previously published by The Conversation (www.theconversation.com), which connects scientists and journalists to tell better stories.*



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HOROSCOPES

Week beginning October 20

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Libra poet Wallace Stevens said that the great poems of heaven and hell have already been written, and now it is time to generate the great poems of earth. I’d love to invite all Libras, including non-writers, to apply that perspective in their own sphere. Just forget about heaven and hell for now. Turn your attention away from perfection and fantasylands and lofty heights. Disregard pathologies and muck and misery. Instead, explore and celebrate the precious mysteries of the world as it is. Be a connoisseur of the beauty and small miracles embedded in life’s little details. Find glory in the routine.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Here are two top Scorpio pastimes: 1. exploring and deploying your intense, fertile creativity; 2. spiraling gleefully down into deep dark voids in pursuit of deep dark riches. Sometimes those two hobbies dovetail quite well; you can satisfy both pursuits simultaneously. One of my favorite variations on this scenario is when the deep dark void you leap into turns out to actually be a lush wonderland that stimulates your intense, fertile creativity. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, that’s likely to happen soon.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** “I don’t want to be made pacified or made comfortable. I like stuff that gets your adrenaline going.” Sagittarian filmmaker Kathryn Bigelow said that. With the help of this attitude, she became the first woman ever to win an Academy Award for Best Director. Her film was The Hurt Locker, about American soldiers in Iraq who dispose of unexploded bombs while being harassed by enemies. Anyway, Bigelow’s approach is usually too hard-ass for me. I’m a sensitive Cancer the Crab, not a bold Sagittarius the Centaur like Bigelow and you. But I don’t want to assume you’re in the mood for her approach. If you are, though, the coming weeks will be a favorable time to deploy it. Some marvelous epiphanies and healing changes will be available if you forswear stuff that makes you pacified or comfortable.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Author Jan Richardson tells us we can’t return home by taking the same route we used when we departed. This will be wise advice for you to keep in mind during the next nine months. I expect you will be attempting at least two kinds of homecomings. For best results, plan to travel by different routes than those that might seem natural and obvious. The most direct path—the successful passage—may be circuitous.



**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** In the coming days, maintain strict boundaries between yourself and anyone or anything that’s not healthy for you. Be ultra-discerning as you decide which influences you will allow to affect you and which you won’t. And rather than getting sour and tense as you do this, I recommend you proceed with wicked humor and sly irony. Here are three saucy self-protective statements you can use to ward off threats and remain inviolable. 1. “The current ambiance does not align sweetly with my vital soul energy; I must go track down some more harmonious karma.” 2. “This atmosphere is out of sync with my deep precious selfness; I am compelled to take my deep precious selfness elsewhere.” 3. “The undertones here are agitating my undercurrents; it behooves me to track down groovier overtones.”

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** While asleep, have you ever dreamt of discovering new rooms in a house or other building you know well? I bet you will have at least one such dream soon. What does it mean? It suggests you want and need to get in touch with parts of yourself that have been dormant or unavailable. You may uncover evocative secrets about your past and present that had been unknown to you. You will learn about new resources you can access and provocative possibilities you had never imagined.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** “We must be willing to let go of the life we planned so as to have the life that is waiting for us.” Aries mythologist Joseph Campbell said that, and now I’m passing it on to you just in time for the Sacred Surrender Phase of your astrological cycle. Make sage use of Campbell’s wisdom, Aries! You will generate good fortune for yourself as you work to release expectations that may be interfering with the arrival of new stories and adventures. Be brave, my dear, as you relinquish outdated attachments and shed defunct hopes.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Plastic bags are used for an average of 12 minutes before being discarded. Then they languish in our soil or oceans, degrading slowly as they cause mayhem for animals and ecosystems. In alignment with current cosmic rhythms, I’m encouraging you to be extra discerning in your relationship with plastic bags—as well as with all other unproductive, impractical, wasteful things and people. In the coming weeks, you will thrive by focusing on what will serve you with high integrity for a long time.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Achilles Frangakis is a professor of electron microscopy. He studies the biochemistry of cells. In one of his research projects, he investigated how cells interact with the outside world. He didn’t learn much about that question, but as he experimented, he inadvertently uncovered fascinating new information about another subject: how cells interact with each other when they heal a wound. His “successful failure” was an example of what scientists sometimes do: They miss what they looked for, but find unexpected data and make serendipitous discoveries. I suspect you will experience comparable luck sometime soon, Gemini. Be alert for goodies you weren’t in quest of.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Renowned Brazilian novelist Osman Lins was born under the sign of Cancer the Crab. He wrote, “I will now live my life with the inventiveness of an engineer who drives his locomotive off the tracks. No more beaten paths: improvisation is the rule.” In the coming weeks, I am all in favor of you, my fellow Cancerian, being an inventive adventurer who improvises liberally and departs from well-worn routes. However, I don’t recommend you do the equivalent of running your train off the tracks. Let’s instead imagine you as piloting a four-wheel-drive, all-terrain vehicle. Go off-road to explore. Improvise enthusiastically as you reconnoiter the unknown. But do so with scrupulous attention to what’s healthy and inspiring.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** In recent years, art historians have recovered numerous masterpieces that had been missing for years. They include a sculpture by Bernini, a sketch by Picasso, a drawing by Albrecht Dürer, and a painting by Titian. I’m a big fan of efforts like these: searching for and finding lost treasures. And I think you should make that a fun project in the coming weeks. Are there any beautiful creations that have been lost or forgotten? Useful resources that have been neglected? Wild truths that have been buried or underestimated? In accordance with astrological potentials, I hope you will explore such possibilities.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** The most important experience for you to seek in the coming months is to be seen and respected for who you really are. Who are the allies best able to give you that blessing? Make vigorous efforts to keep them close and treat them well. To inspire your mission, I offer you three quotes. 1. Franz Kafka said, “All the love in the world is useless if there is a total lack of understanding.” 2. Anais Nin wrote, “I don’t want worship. I want understanding.” 3. George Orwell: “Perhaps one did not want to be loved so much as to be understood.”

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Inside... The area's most complete real estate listings | The Murphy Flats development | Heron School now open

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Piedra Ancestral Realty Moab (See page 38)

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# Classifieds

PAGE TWENTY-FOUR

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### Services

**Pets**

Ready to meet your new adventure partner? Underdog Animal Rescue and Rehab has many wonderful dogs looking to join your pack. Contact us at 435-260-8033 to schedule an appointment to meet our pups! All of our adoptable animals can be viewed online at [Petfinder.com](http://Petfinder.com) as well as our website [www.Underdogrescuemoab.org](http://www.Underdogrescuemoab.org). Keep an eye out on our Facebook page for upcoming adoption events locally in Moab.

**Insurance**

Markle Insurance Agency - Medigap Supplements, No annual membership fee, Accepted by all Medicare providers, No co-pays, Silver and Fit Gym benefits, Always competitive rates, local agents to work with. Call: 259-5241

## Announcement

### Call for bids

Grand County (Owner) is requesting Bids for the construction of the following Project: Pack Creek Fire Emergency Watershed Protection Bids for the construction of the Project will be received at the Grand County Offices located at 125 E. Center St., Moab, UT 84532, until Tuesday, October 27 at 4:00 PM local time. At that time, the Bids received will be publicly opened and read. The Project includes the following Work: Concrete low-water crossing, streambank and streambed protection, grade stabilization and debris removal for five (5) roadway crossings of Pack Creek in Spanish Valley, Utah. The project includes approximately 1500 C.Y. of riprap placement, 110 C.Y. of reinforced concrete, 280 L.F. of 24" diameter culvert installation, removal and placement of approximately 630 CY of sediment and debris, and related work. The project is split into five (5) schedules with three (1) of the schedules being additive alternatives. Bids will be received for single contract.

Owner anticipates that the Project's total bid price will be approximately \$450,000. The Project has an expected duration of 75 days.

Obtaining Bidding Documents: Information and Bidding Documents for the Project can be found at the following designated websites: [www.jonesanddemille.com](http://www.jonesanddemille.com) or [www.questcdn.com](http://www.questcdn.com)

Bidding Documents may be downloaded from the designated websites for a fee of \$30.00. The designated websites will be updated with addenda, plan holders list, reports, and other information relevant to submitting a Bid for the Project. Official notifications, addenda, and other Bidding Documents will be offered through the designated websites.

The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is: Jones & DeMille Engineering, Inc., 696 North Main Street, Monticello, UT 84535. Prospective Bidders may examine the Bidding Documents at the Issuing Office Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., except holidays or may obtain copies of the Bidding Documents from the Issuing Office as described below. Partial sets of Bidding Documents will not be available

from the Issuing Office. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for full or partial sets of Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than the designated websites and the Issuing Office.

Printed copies of the Bidding Documents may be obtained from the Issuing Office upon payment of \$40.00 for each set, no part of which will be refunded. Make checks payable to Jones & DeMille Engineering, Inc.

Pre-bid Conference: A mandatory pre-bid conference for the Project will be held on Monday, October 17, at 4:00 PM local time at the Grand County Offices located at 125 E. Center St., Moab, UT 84532. Bids will not be accepted from Bidders that do not attend the mandatory pre-bid conference.

Instructions to Bidders: For further requirements regarding bid submittal, qualifications, procedures, and contract award, refer to the Instructions to Bidders that are included in the Bidding Documents. The Owner may reject any or all bids submitted.

This Classifieds space could be yours!

**\$35/week.**

Email [office.moabsunnews@gmail.com](mailto:office.moabsunnews@gmail.com).



Calendar

Continued from Page 20

Thursday, October 27  
Volunteer Trail Building

Help build Hawk's Glide, a new mountain bike trail in Sand Flats Recreation Area! Register at [www.grandcountyutah.net/980/Volunteer](http://www.grandcountyutah.net/980/Volunteer).  
9 a.m. to the afternoon at the Porcupine Rim Trailhead (Sand Flats Rd.)

Recording Stories workshop

Learn how to collect and record audio stories, or oral histories, with Moab Museum staff. Participants will learn the basics of oral history collection, share interview tips, and learn about the museum's Listening Stations, user-friendly mobile recording units. Register on the museum's website.  
2 to 3 p.m. at the Moab Museum (118 E. Center St.)

Lecture Series

For the last lecture of the Moab Information Center's 2022 lecture series, Sam Metzner will give a lecture about her time as the Southeast Utah Group Artist in the Parks. Metzner will discuss how the parks influenced her artwork.  
5 p.m. at the Moab Information Center (25 E. Center St.)

Friday, October 28  
Free locals spooky skate

Don your Halloween costumes for a free locals skate night with Skate Moab! All ages welcome.  
6 to 8 p.m. at the Sun Court (203 E. Center St.)

Friday, October 28 and  
Saturday, October 29  
Community Rebuilds

**Haunted Bunkhouse**  
Featuring three houses transformed into a carnival of terror! Admission is \$15 for ages 12 and up; \$5 for under 12.  
4 to 9 p.m. at Community Rebuilds (150 S. 2nd E. St.)

Ongoing

Event details may change; check with organizers before you go.

Wannabe Players improv group

Come practice improv, and have fun, with a welcoming and enthusiastic group.  
Mondays at 6:30 p.m. at the Sun Court basketball court beside Star Hall (159 E. Center St.)

Afterschool LEGO club

Kids ages 6-12 are invited to the Grand County Public Library for LEGO club!  
Tuesdays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Grand County Public Library (257 E Center St.)

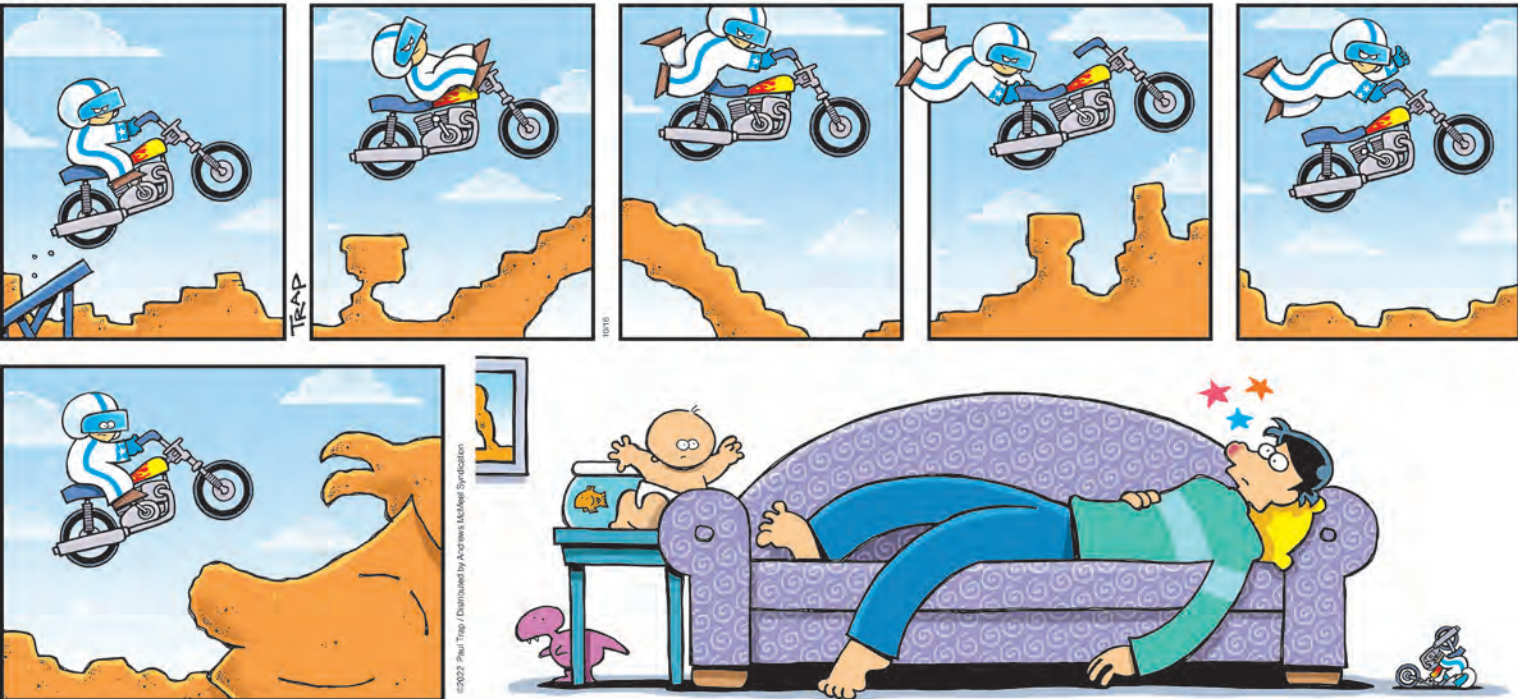
Moab Community Yoga

Join local yoga teachers every Tuesday for community yoga! Suggested donation is \$5-10.  
Tuesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the MARC (111 E. 100 N.)

Fitness for Recovery

Explore how fitness can assist you on your recovery path.  
Tuesdays at 8 a.m. at USARA (23 S. 100 W.)

THATABABY



BY PAUL TRAP

	6	9	2				1	
		8	1		5			
			8	6	9	7	2	
	1			3			6	8
4	7						9	1
8	9			1			7	
	3	1	6	5	4			
			3		1	2		
	4				8	1	3	

Sudoku

Fill out each row, column and square with the numbers 1-9, without repeating any numbers within the row, column or square.

Difficulty rating of this puzzle: Beginner

Solution:

7	6	9	2	4	3	8	1	5
3	2	8	1	7	5	6	4	9
1	5	4	8	6	9	7	2	3
5	1	2	9	3	7	4	6	8
4	7	6	5	8	2	3	9	1
8	9	3	4	1	6	5	7	2
2	3	1	6	5	4	9	8	7
6	8	7	3	9	1	2	5	4
9	4	5	7	2	8	1	3	6

ACROSS

- 1 Facts and figures  
5 Snacks for aardvarks  
9 Boggle, Scrabble and others  
14 Makes a mistake  
15 \_\_\_\_-chic (hippie-influenced fashion)  
16 "Workers of all lands \_\_\_\_" (phrase on Marx's tombstone)  
17 South American palm with a black-purple berry  
18 Make, as money  
19 Put into law  
20 Los Angeles venue named for the star of "12 Angry Men"  
23 Do needlework  
24 Lots and lots  
25 Network with an eye logo  
28 Yellowfin tuna

- 30 Disney+ series in the Marvel Cinematic Universe  
34 Animals that may be subject to an apartment restriction  
36 What electric cars don't need  
37 Apartment you own  
38 "Butch Cassidy" and "The Sundance Kid," for two  
40 "The Canterbury Tales" author  
42 Identical copy  
43 Promise-to-pay letters  
44 Stadium seating section  
45 First car from a Japanese manufacturer to be made in the U.S. (1982)  
49 "Dear old" family member

- 50 Letter before tee  
51 Eye affliction  
52 Take advantage of  
54 Creator of "Grey's Anatomy" and "Scandal" ... or, when said aloud, a hint to the starts of 20-, 30 and 45-Across  
59 Squabble  
62 Faux-humble response to a compliment  
63 Swanky party  
64 Oyster's prize  
65 Gospel singer Winans  
66 "Battle \_\_\_\_ of the Republic"  
67 Kick out  
68 Talk back to  
69 Made off with

DOWN

- 1 Not able to hear  
2 With the bow, in music  
3 "So, anyway, ..." and "On that note ...," e.g.  
4 Parenthetical comment  
5 Help with a heist  
6 Trevor of "The Daily Show"  
7 Clothes, slangily  
8 Beethoven's "Moonlight \_\_\_\_"  
9 Picasso's antiwar masterpiece  
10 Brontë sister  
11 Soccer star Hamm  
12 List-ending abbr.

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
20				21					22					
		23					24					25	26	27
28	29			30	31	32				33				
34			35		36					37				
38				39				40	41					
42							43				44			
45					46	47				48		49		
50				51						52	53			
			54					55	56				57	58
59	60	61				62					63			
64						65					66			
67						68					69			

PUZZLE BY MICHAEL LIBERMAN

- 13 Where a TV show is filmed  
21 Reaction to cuteness  
22 "Mazel \_\_\_\_!"  
25 Annual celebration of Mexican heritage  
26 Neighborhood grocery store  
27 Made sounds while sound asleep  
28 Sugarhill Gang song with the repeated line "Jump on it!"  
29 Greetings  
31 How old you are  
32 "Illmatic" rapper

- 33 First Pixar film with a Black protagonist  
35 Something brought home unintentionally from the beach  
39 Something brought home intentionally from the beach  
40 Dove's sound  
41 "Ben-\_\_\_\_"  
43 Chilled drink that might be served with a lemon wedge  
46 From \_\_\_\_ Z  
47 Skeptical sorts  
48 "Oh, that was so obvious!"

- 53 One of the five senses  
54 Word that conveys skepticism when its vowel sound is dragged out  
55 Rainbow shapes  
56 Some loaves or whiskeys  
57 Ticklish Muppet  
58 Went down, as hearts or ships  
59 Animal aptly found in "banana peel"  
60 "Oedipus \_\_\_\_"  
61 Thing to mind between the train and platform







# Haunted

Continued from Page 28

Rockelein said, adding that the staff then came up with the idea for a haunted house. Last year's event was so popular that CR ended up turning people away at the door, so this year, the organization decided to continue it.

This year's haunted house will be decorated by CR staff and community volunteers, who will all strive to match the genius of Moab local Donna Metzler, Rockelein said. Last year, Metzler created an organ for the room she decorated and played it the entire night.

"She does not hold back," Rockelein said. Metzler will decorate another room this year, along with a number of local volunteers including a group from the BEACON Afterschool program. Because of that, Rockelein expects an "eclectic mix" of rooms—some that are wildly scary, some that are more tame.

There will be other activities on campus as well: CR will decorate its other employee housing unit, called "The Cottage," as a kids' area. Activities in the kids' area will be put on by the Youth Garden Project; last year, activities included crafts and games like pumpkin tic-tac-toe. The entire event is family-friendly, Rockelein said, but there will be scary elements throughout the haunted house itself.

Rockelein said CR is also looking for performance volunteers like magicians and jugglers, and there will also be a tarot reader



Kids with a BEACON Afterschool program helped decorate old sheets—and a baby doll—with fake blood splatters in preparation for the event. [Alison Harford/Moab Sun News]



and fortune teller. Rockelein is particularly excited about the temporary tattoo parlor, she said: she's gathering small, 2-inch by 2-inch designs created by local artists to turn into temporary tattoos.

"It's a different way to show off the artistic prowess of Moab, which was one of the really fun

things that came out of last year," Rockelein said.

The entire event is a fundraiser for CR: the organization is a nonprofit, Rockelein said, so the money raised will go toward CR's educational programming and operations costs.

"The thing about the haunted house that's really cool is watch-

ing people get excited about Halloween," she said. "People get really creative ... like, there's people like Donna Metzler, who go all out with the decorations, and then there are people who will make a room where they sit in a strobe light and scream at people. There's a lot of variation in the haunted house, which is

really, really fun." If you're interested in volunteering, contact Shelby Rockelein at fundraiser@communityrebuilds.org. The Haunted House event will take place on Friday, October 28 and Saturday, October 29 from 4 to 9 p.m. at the Community Rebuilds campus (150 S. 200 E.)

Growing up in rural Utah, my dad taught me to hunt, herd cattle, weld, haul hay for our horses, and be respectful of the land.

I love rural Utah and I want our kids to see a future for *their* kids here.



Election Day is Nov. 8th and ballots are mailed Oct.18th - make sure your voice is heard.

*Paid for by Friends of Davina Smith*



# Community&Events

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

## Events Calendar

Events are free unless noted!  
Email event information to [moabsunnewseditor@gmail.com](mailto:moabsunnewseditor@gmail.com) to get on our calendar.

Friday, October 21

### Moab Mingle

Hosted by the Moab Festival of Science, join regional educators, geologists, archaeologists, paleontologists, biologists, other scientists and science aficionados! 4 to 6 p.m. on the Moab Museum lawn (118 E. Center St.)

### Water in the West talk

The Moab Festival of Science's keynote speaker panel features three local scientists who will discuss how water affects the weather, earth, and people. 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Star Hall (159 E. Center St.)

Saturday, October 22 and

Sunday, October 23

### Red Canyon PowWow

The Red Canyon PowWow, hosted by Indigenous Health and Wellness Connections, will feature a vendor market and multiple dance and drum contests. Gates open at 11 a.m. at the Old Spanish Trail Arena (3641 S. Highway 191)

Saturday, October 22

### Bringing the War Home show

Utah State University's "Bringing the War Home" project, in partnership with Utah Public Radio, aims to document the objects and memories associated with America's wars. Moab is invited to bring objects and stories, or just come to learn. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at USU Moab's campus (1850 South Aggie Blvd, off south Highway 191)

### "Finding Hope" Science Talk

The Moab Festival of Science will host Dr. Sasha Reed to discuss how recent Colorado Plateau science suggests hope in our ability to sustain dryland ecosystems. 5 to 6 p.m. at Star Hall (159 E. Center St.)

Sunday, October 23

### Science Trivia

Join the Moab Festival of Science, KZMU, and Moab Pub Trivia for science trivia! Listen live at [www.kzmu.org](http://www.kzmu.org) or on 90.1 or 106.7 FM. Links to submit answers will be posted on [kzmu.org](http://kzmu.org) before the show. 5 to 7 p.m. on air

Wednesday, October 26

### Make Your Own Essential Oil Roll-on

Join Moonflower Community Cooperative for a free class on how to create an essential oil roll-on—roll-ons are a safe, convenient way to use oils for their aromatherapeutic benefits. All supplies will be provided! RSVP at [bit.ly/rollonclass](http://bit.ly/rollonclass). 7 p.m. at Moonflower Co-op (39 E. 100 N.)

See Calendar Page 17

## EVENT

# "Bringing War Home" project comes to Moab

Veterans history event will take place on Oct. 22



Students record a veteran's objects and story. [Courtesy photo]

By ALISON HARFORD

Moab Sun News

One of the most striking objects Susan Grayzel, a history professor at Utah State University—has seen in her work with the "Bringing War Home" project is a piece of shrapnel.

"As an object, it has no inherent meaning—it's burned metal," Grayzel said. "And yet, this person has held onto it, and now they want to tell us why they picked it up in Vietnam, and why they've had it ever since."

The project, funded by Utah Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities, aims to collect items and stories of America's modern wars. As Grayzel and the other project organizer, USU anthropology professor Molly Cannon, travel to various locations in Utah, they invite war veterans, veteran family members, civilians, and anyone who has been touched by war or who wants to learn more about war to share their stories and experience the stories of others.

See War Page 26

## EVENT

# Attend a terrifying circus this Halloween

Community Rebuilds to hold annual "Haunted Bunkhouse" on Oct. 28 and 29

By ALISON HARFORD

Moab Sun News

Shelby Rockelein, the fundraising coordinator at Community Rebuilds, said the scariest room in last year's "Haunted Bunkhouse" event, in which CR decorates its employee housing like a haunted house, was the room with clowns. That gave her the idea for this year's Haunted Bunkhouse theme: the circus. There will be temporary tattoos, tarot readings, and, of course, clowns.

"We wanted to lean into the thing that was already intrinsically scary: clowns," Rockelein said.

Planning for the event has been in the works for months; now, Rockelein is focusing on organizing volunteers to create rooms and activities. There will be around seven rooms inside the haunted house and many more activities scattered around the Community Rebuilds campus off 200 E.

"Our work is really big, but it also has a very small focal

point—it can be hard to engage the community," Rockelein said. CR's mission is to build affordable, natural houses; it does this through the work of interns, who learn about and build the homes. Thus, CR's community engagement is limited to working with interns, who work for a few months, or homeowners, Rockelein said.

"We were looking for housing- and natural building-adjacent events we could do to bring people into our campus,"

See Haunted Page 27

## ART

# Creating art on public lands

H. Walck, known as Pine Bones, is the BLM's first artist-in-residence

By ALISON HARFORD

Moab Sun News

On Oct. 9, H. Walck began as the Bureau of Land Management's first-ever Canyon Country artist in residence. Walck will spend three weeks traveling to various sites on BLM land to gather inspiration and interact with visitors, and will then have four months to create a collection of work.

Under the new program, the Moab and Monticello field offices will switch off hosting the residency each year. The Moab field office is hosting the first artist.

"I care a lot about Moab and the ecosystem and environmental impact here," Walck said. Walck moved out West from New York in 2019. They've been drawing their whole life and became a full-time artist when they settled in Moab in 2020.

"Through this program, we hope to inspire and educate the public about the unique resources within the Canyon Country district."

SHANNON CALABRO

Walck, who creates art under the name "PineBones," has a style that is nearly haunting, using chunky shapes and delicate lines to depict desert iconographies like coyotes, snakes, ravens, and bones; sometimes words accompany the creatures, depicting messages such as "cultivate tenderness"; "be here now in this"; and "be who you need." In June, when the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, the case that established the right to abortion, Walck created a sticker in response: a snarling coyote depicted above the words, "this body is mine, and you will not take it from me."

Their art is created digitally and printed on stickers, postcards, prints, pins, and clothing. During the residency, Walck hopes to experiment with creating risograph prints (a type

See Art Page 26



## MOAB REAL ESTATE

MoabLiving @MoabLiving

### RACHEL MOODY

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