

Tragedy in Hildale – flash flood kills 12, one still missing

By Dixie Brunner

Crazy, torrential rains hit the Hildale/Colorado City area on Monday, September 14, and 12 people died in a flash flood, with one child still missing. Most of the flooding occurred just north of Colorado City and Hildale, but the subsequent damage happened quickly.

This community of 7,700 people received the brunt of the incredible storm. The first flood came raging down the canyon, and numerous people went to watch the amazing display of Mother Nature. But a second storm surge caught people off guard. Their vehicles were swamped, and they tried to get out. A full size van and an SUV were inundated and the two vehicles were carried along with the flood. Occupants, and others trying to get out, or help those in the vehicles, were swept away.

Tragedy, and loved ones lost!

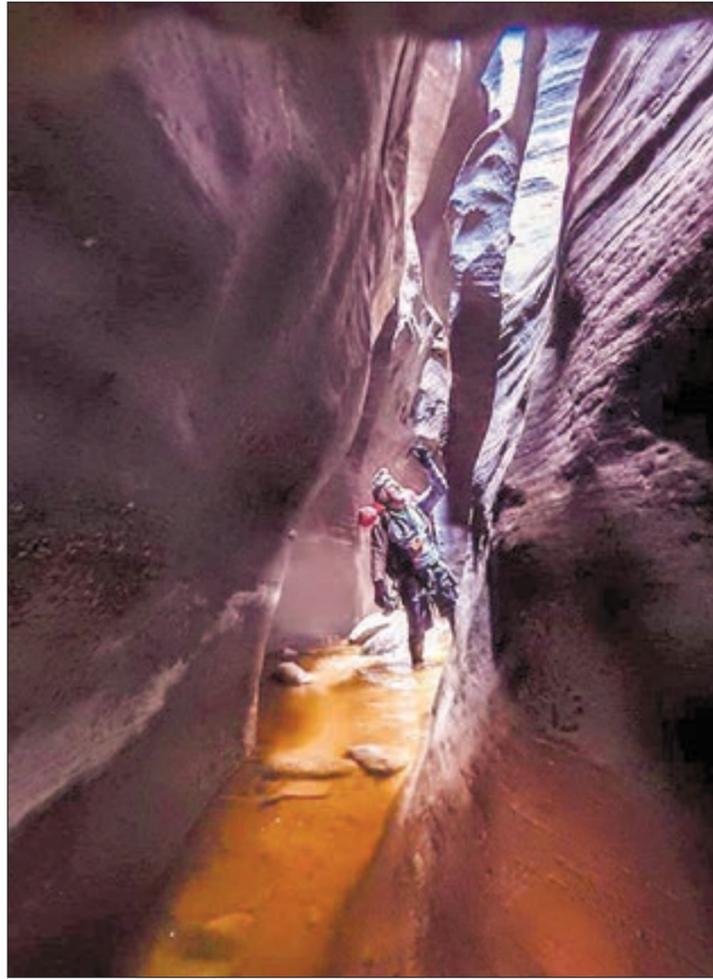
Originally there were 16 people in two vehicles, three women and

the rest children. Eight bodies were found on Monday, with four more uncovered in the mud and debris on Tuesday.

The ninth victim was found about noon on the Arizona side of the border about five miles from where the car he was riding in was found. Another body was found about an hour later, and two more an hour after that. The 12th body was recovered nearly six miles downstream from where the vehicles were found, according to reports.

Kane County Sheriff's Search and Rescue had 20 people searching, along with hundreds from other agencies around Washington and Mohave Counties, to find the bodies and bring closure to the families.

"I am heartbroken to hear of the recent tragedy in Washington County," said Governor Gary Herbert. "The State of Utah has offered its full resources to the town of Hildale to aid with the search and rescue effort."



Local photographer and canyoneer Barry Glazier in Keyhole Canyon earlier this year. Photo by Leo Boren.

Four canyoneering fatalities, three missing in Zion's Keyhole Canyon

On the afternoon of Monday, September 14, 2015, the area in and around Zion National Park experienced heavy rain. Storms arrived between 4:30 and 5:30 p.m. and dropped 0.63" in Zion Canyon in one hour. As a result of these local storms, flash flooding occurred in the park, including a small canyon called Keyhole Canyon.

Rangers received a report of a group of seven individuals canyoneering in Keyhole Canyon shortly before the flooding began. Their unoccupied vehicles were located Monday evening and a search began the morning of Tuesday, September 15, when it was determined that these individuals had not exited the canyon.

Of the seven individuals involved, four fatalities are confirmed and the remaining three are missing. Names are not being released at this time, pending notification of kin.

As the search continues for the missing hikers, high water levels and continued rain showers pose further flash flooding concerns and have hampered searchers' access to the technical portions of the canyoneering route.

Keyhole Canyon is a short, narrow slot canyon located on the east side of Zion National Park. A permit is required for traveling through Keyhole Canyon and individuals must complete several short rappels under 30 feet and swim through several pools of water.

Rangers at Zion National Park continued to search for three missing canyoneers following Monday's flash flood in Keyhole Canyon.

Wednesday morning, the search continued with approximately 60 Search and Rescue personnel from Zion National Park, Springdale/Rockville Fire and Police Departments, and Washington County Search and Rescue. Personnel will

be doing a more in-depth search of Clear Creek, Pine Creek and the Virgin River. Once weather conditions improve, they will also search Keyhole Canyon and Pine Creek Canyon.

Timeline: Monday

- 7:40 a.m. Group of seven picked up their canyoneering permit for Keyhole Canyon.
- 2:22 p.m. The area came under a flash flood warning from the National Weather Service. The warning was publicized through several media sources and posted in all of the park's contact stations. Canyons were closed to canyoneering.
- 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Zion Canyon received 0.63 inches of rain in less than one hour. Rangers noted Keyhole Canyon and several other canyons began to flash flood. The flow of the North Fork of the Virgin River rose abruptly from 55 cubic feet per second (CFS) to 2,630 CFS in 15 minutes. The park receives levels this high approximately once every three years.
- 5:30 p.m. Another canyoneering group who had been through Keyhole Canyon just before the flood reported to park rangers that they had passed a group of seven canyoneers and believed that they may have been caught in the flood. Rangers located the group's vehicles, but did not see any sign of the group. Keyhole Canyon already flash flooding. Due to weather at the time and through the evening, it was determined that rescue operations could not be safely initiated.

Tuesday

- 7:00 a.m. The search began. Because of the weather, Keyhole

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Public meeting for proposed Kanab Civic Center

By Matt Brown

The Kane County Commission is encouraging Kanab City residents and others from throughout the county to attend a public hearing where plans for a \$10,500,000 civic center to be located in Kanab will be discussed. The hearing is set for Monday, September 21, at 5 p.m., in the Commission Chambers of the County Courthouse, located at 76 North Main in Kanab.

The county is seeking funding from the Utah Community Impact Board. The proposed funding being sought would be a grant of \$5,250,000 and a 30-year loan at 2 percent for \$1,500,000. The county has already set aside \$1,250,000 as its upfront contribution to build the facility. The 30-year loan will be paid from Transient Room Taxes generated by motels in the county. The Kane School District owns the 13 acres where the old Kanab High/Middle School stands and will be contributing the land that is valued in the neighborhood of \$2,500,000 to the project. The project is a partnership between Kane School District, Kanab City, Kanab Senior Citizen Center and Kane County.

The Civic Center proposal consists of five buildings that will create a campus type of feel. Two completely new buildings would be constructed and three would be remodels of existing structures. The proposed buildings and their uses are as follows:

Kanab Heritage Museum (old Public Library): would be completely restored inside and out to its original state and also bring electrical and other mechanical systems up to current codes.

Conference Center: a new 12,000 sq. ft. building capable of facilitating meetings of up to 600 people and dinners of 400 people. It would also provide reception facilities complete with a catering kitchen.

Future Ancient History Museum: The building currently housing the old gym would be remodeled, but would continue to be used for sporting events and other large gatherings. It would also provide a practice space for the Symphony of the Canyons. The plan is for this building to be converted to an ancient history museum down the road.

Kanab City Offices: The administrative office for Kanab City would be moved into a remodeled section of what is presently referred to as the Annex. This space would be cosmetically upgraded.

Kanab Senior Center: The other half of the Annex building would become home to the Senior Center with cosmetic upgrades and the addition of a kitchen.

Event Center: This building would be new and approximately 23,000 sq. ft. in size. It will house two removal basketball/volleyball courts, and also contain several medium to large flex-rooms. When the courts are removed

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Event organizers Tess and Colin Geddes were at the finish line to greet three runners at last year's Grand2Grand.

Grand to Grand 2015 kicks off this Sunday

The fourth edition of the Grand to Grand Ultra will take place in just a few days from September 20-26, 2015. G2G 2015 is a 170-mile footrace, which starts at a remote location on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon and ends on the summit of the Grand Staircase. The race is unique in America as it is entirely self-supported. This means competitors have to carry all of their food, sleeping bag and other essential supplies for the week-long event, which takes place over six stages. Organizers provide water at checkpoints and a tent at a roving camp each night in the desert.

This year, it is expected there will be 131 competitors taking part from 27 countries, including two locals from Kanab. This is an increase from the number of entries in 2014.

Colin and Tess Geddes, the founders and co-directors of the event, continue to passionately organize and improve the race. One major change this year is the addition of a second ultra stage race on the same course at the same time.

"This was in response to en-

quiries from runners over the last three years who felt that the Grand to Grand Ultra was a little too demanding. The new race is called the Grand to Grand Challenge and is a total of 108 miles compared to the 170 miles of the Grand to Grand Ultra," said Colin.

This race is considered to be one of the toughest footraces on the planet and attracts some of the premier endurance athletes from around the world.

This year, the Grand to Grand Ultra has attracted Mohamad Ahansal from Morocco, five-time men's champion of the famous 156-mile Marathon des Sables, as well as Laurence Klein from France, three-time women's champion of the same race, which takes place in the Sahara Desert.

The winner of Grand to Grand Ultra 2014, Michelle (Micky) Graglia, is also returning this year, but in the capacity of volunteer. He will be helping to mark the course as part of the course team.

Spectators will be able to see the competitors at race check-in on Friday, September 18, and again at approximately the halfway

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KANAB WEATHER

September			
Date	High	Low	Prec
9	90	55	
10	92	55	
11	93	53	
12	93	54	
13	90	56	
14	83	56	.60
15	74	56	.62

Courtesy: Wayne & Stacy Grosz



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Call for old Ag pics - Page 8



New art mosaic at The Terrace - Page 9



Four retire from Kane School District - Page 11

INSIDE THE SUN THIS WEEK: