

## Grand to Grand Ultra: magical and magnificent camaraderie

By Susana Young

Something was different this year. Something magical. Something clicked among the runners, the staff and the crew. It was remarkable how happy everyone was. They became like family, really caring about each other, really interested in how everyone was doing – not where they placed, but how they felt physically, mentally and emotionally. It didn't matter who came in first. What mattered was being able to finish the stage. The cheering, clapping and yelling as each runner crossed the day's finish line was heart-felt.

When Councilman Brent and Kathy Chamberlain visited an evening camp for G2G, they found everyone was truly concerned for those runners out on the trail until late, and were thrilled as each runner crossed the finish line. They said, "We were amazed at the diversity of the participants— young to older, slim to not-so-slim. It became obvious that one of the most important attributes the runners could have was the right mental attitude, and a tremendous desire to finish."

One of the runners with a tremendous desire to finish was Gregory Castle. Castle knew the day-after-day demands of G2G would be his biggest challenge. When he passed Best Friends at dusk almost 25 miles into the "long stage," there was an emotional greeting by his wife and many employees. Tears flowed, and Castle still faced another 28

miles to the end of the long stage at Elephant Butte. The Sand Dunes loomed ahead.

Castle had planned to stop at dark and sleep through the night, but he said, "I just didn't sleep. I rested a couple of hours, then went on. I tried to sleep, but just couldn't." When he reached camp, it was 3 p.m., 31 hours from when he'd started the long stage. As he passed under the finish banner, all hands were clapping and cheering him. He had conquered an amazing challenge.

At the end of the race, Castle was second from last. As the oldest competitor (the other 72-year-old dropped out the first day), he stayed in the race, fighting fatigue and working hard to reach his goal. He kept his promise to finish the race—as a symbol of the endurance needed to "Save them All" – the marathon task at Best Friends. As more and more runners dropped out – 25 in all – Castle became one of the last in the pack, competing for nearly 78 hours over six days.

Many of those who dropped out did not leave. They stayed to help. Some ran in subsequent stages (just for fun), but they wanted to be there to support those still determined to finish. They, too, added to the magic.

Todd Seliga's experience was shared by many. "My tentmates were awesome; the camaraderie was amazing. It didn't matter to most runners where they placed each day. What mattered was that everyone wanted everybody to get

See G2G, Page 3



It didn't matter who came in first. What mattered was being able to finish the stage, as camaraderie at the 2014 Grand 2 Grand Ultra Marathon was the main focus. Photo by Jeff Frey.



Eventual winner Michele Graglia had an unusual way to cross the Coral Pink Sand Dunes, with his shoes on his hands and bare feet. Photo by Matt Brown.



### Kane County Sheriff Lamont Smith named Sheriff of the Year

Congratulations to Sheriff Lamont Smith for being awarded the Utah Sheriff's Association "Sheriff of the Year" for 2014 at their 19th annual training conference in St George, Utah. This is Sheriff Smith's second time receiving this award, having been named Sheriff of the Year in 2004. Sheriff Smith also received the Utah Sheriff's Association President's Lawman of the Year award in 2001. The Kane County Sheriff's Office deputies and staff would like to congratulate Sheriff Smith for this award, which reflects highly upon him and the Kane County Sheriff's Office.

## Flood rescue on the Paria River

On the evening of September 27, 2014, Kane County Deputy Rob Johnson was dispatched to an accident south of Cannonville. He was informed the accident was caused by floods causing a bridge to give way.

When Johnson arrived, several rescue workers and law enforcement officers from Garfield County were on the scene. They relayed to Johnson that a couple from Italy, Suzanna Dursi and Roberto Bellotti, had been traveling from west to east when the road gave way on the east end of the bridge. The water from heavy rain that day had washed all of the base under the

road away. Their car plummeted approximately 20 feet into the flooding river and ended up upside down in the river. Dursi and Bellotti were able to swim out of the back window and climb onto the portion of the car that was above water, as the car was pushed about 150 yards downstream.

Deputy Pierson of Garfield County had been contacted by a family member notifying him of the road damage. Pierson went to the scene to observe the damage to the road and heard Dursi and Bellotti yelling for help from downstream.

The Garfield County rescue

teams were then gathered and a plan was devised to use a rubber raft, controlled by ropes from each side of the river and a rope from atop of the bridge to be guided downstream to the stranded couple, where they were given lifejackets and assisted into the boat to be pulled to safety.

Dursi and Bellotti were shivering and emotionally distraught as they were escorted from the riverbank into an ambulance. The ambulance transported them to Garfield County Hospital, where they were treated for hypothermia.

## Zion hiker dies in The Narrows

The body of a 34-year old male was found on Sunday, September 28, by park rangers in the Virgin River Narrows and has been identified as Douglas Yoshi Vo, 34, of Westminster, California.

Vo and a male companion had entered the Narrows from the Riverside Walk Trail early Saturday morning. At that time, the river was running at approximately 46 cubic feet per second (CFS). At around 9:30 a.m., rain began to fall and the pair decided to end

their hike and go back down the Narrows to the Riverside Walk Trail. During their walk out, the river started rising rapidly and quickly reached flash flood levels, peaking at 4,020 CFS.

The two hikers became stranded on high ground, but on opposite sides of the river. They could not communicate due to the noise from the river. They waited from around 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. for the water to recede, but it was still too high for them to hike out. At that time,

Vo's companion decided to try to exit the Narrows to the Riverside Walk Trail by swimming down the flooding river. Vo remained safe on high ground on the opposite side of the river.

Vo's companion, who entered the river safely, made it out and contacted a park ranger at approximately 6:30 p.m. He informed park rangers that Vo was still stranded on high ground,

See NARROWS, Page 2

### KANAB WEATHER

Date	High	Low	Prec
24	88	54	
25	88	55	
26	87	55	Tr
27	56	54	2.25
28	67	45	.35
29	68	48	Tr
30	74	44	

September Precip. = 3.85"

Courtesy: Wayne & Stacy Grosz



Meth ring busted - Page 2

### INSIDE THE SUN THIS WEEK:



Strut Your Mutt fundraiser nets \$46,000 so far - Page 5



Zions Bank receives federal award - Page 5



Cowboys lose heartbreaker 20-19 - Page 12