

# Lucky locals win Grand to Grand scholarships!

By Susana Young

Grand to Grand Ultra directors Colin and Tess Geddes have thrilled two local people—Deena Farmer and Pete Daw—winners of the G2G 2019 scholarships for Kane County residents.

Deena Farmer's strength and love is power hiking, "...fastpacking long distances (20-30 miles a day) every opportunity I get and in all seasons," she says. Farmer is used to carrying a 40-pound backpack. She says, "I'm a passionate desert backpacker who runs little. I'll need to work on running with a pack. The bouncing bugs me."

Pete Daw has fallen in love with distance running. He started running 10 years ago, progressed to the marathon level, and thought he'd be done by then—that a marathon was the ultimate. But he continued to seek challenges. "I got sucked into ultrarunning five years ago."

Today, he particularly likes 24-hour races and has exceeded traversing 100 miles in such events. He's looking for the next challenge—like standing at the starting line of a seven-day, self-supported stage race and not knowing what will happen. He likes the draw of the unknown.

Both Farmer and Daw are determined to work hard to improve their skills so they can proudly finish G2G. They both feel lucky to have been chosen, and say they wouldn't be in a position to compete in G2G any time soon on their

own dime. Farmer says she dreamed of running in G2G since first learning about it a few years ago, but felt it was out of her reach financially. "It seemed like it could only ever be just a dream. And now, I'm going to do it! I'm so lucky!"

Farmer has always liked a challenge. She joined the Army Reserve right after high school. "When I was in basic training, I had so much fun! I loved the obstacle course." (How many people do you know who say that?) She started hiking in the Wasatch Mountains when she and her husband Chuck lived in Salt Lake City and raised their two daughters. She wanted to hike longer and faster and began to hike weekends in Moab.

When their youngest child had finished high school and they no longer had to worry about disrupting her schooling, Chuck took a job with Shamrock as the Kanab area's sales rep. "This is our 'last' move," Farmer says. "We have lived many places, but now that our daughters are on their own, we chose the best place for us. We love southern Utah!"

Farmer has hiked the rim-to-rim-to-rim at the Grand Canyon several times. She likes to keep challenging herself. She is pleased that she hiked 345 miles of the 788-mile Arizona Trail. "I learned so much about myself and my skills," she said. She hopes one day to be able to through-hike the entire 788-mile trail... to prove to herself that she can do it.

Daw is from Cleveland,

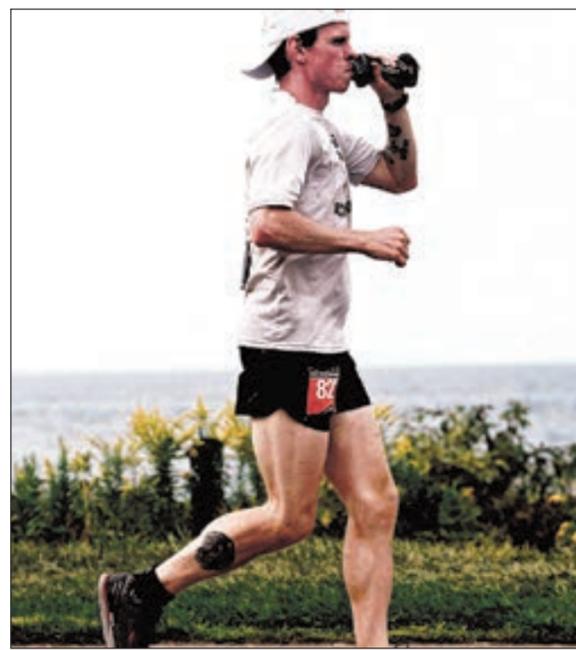


Deena Farmer is a passionate desert backpacker.

Ohio. He had been working as a vocational guidance counselor for people with disabilities. After 10 years, he decided to pursue his passion of working with animals, and took a job at a veterinary hospital. Last summer, he accepted a job offer at Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, a dream come true. He feels so fortunate.

Daw wants to know what he's capable of. "The worst time of my life was 60 miles into a 100-mile, 24-hour race. I was emotionally, physically and psychologically spent—yet I was still able to pick myself up and finish. That is a lesson that I carry to other areas of my life."

Daw says, "That I've been given this opportunity is pretty awesome. I'm really looking forward to it.



Pete Daw seeks new challenges in ultrarunning.

I want to finish, and finish strong."

You can bet both Farmer and Daw will cross that G2G

finish line next September. Luck seems to follow hard work, dedication and passion.

## Kelly Point Road closed for winter

Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument Superintendent Chad Corey set the seasonal winter closure of Kelly Point Road (NPS1203) to motorized vehicles for Monday, December 3, 2018.

In winter, the roadbed is normally saturated by melting ice and snow. This seasonal closure will protect the road and nearby vegetation. In the past the road was damaged as motorists drove off-road onto meadows to avoid deep mud and standing water. This changed natural drainage patterns, destroyed vegetation, and

impacted cultural resources. The road remains open to non-motorized travel.

"The road to Kelly Point is very rough and one of the most isolated places in the monument," said Superintendent Corey. "Due to the clay roadbed and fragile features there, a seasonal motorized closure is the best way to protect the road, park resources and public safety."

Permits may be available from the Chief Ranger for winter motorized access to Kelly Point if conditions are dry enough. See the National Park Service's

Parashant web page for more information and to download the permit request form at [www.nps.gov/para](http://www.nps.gov/para). Click on the Alert link on the home page to reach the Kelly Point motorized vehicle permit page.

The seasonal road closure during the winter months was implemented in accordance with the General Management Plan Record of Decision approved in 2008. Kelly Point Road is expected to open in March when warm and dry weather returns.

## Boeing grants Utah STEM Foundation \$75K

Boeing has announced it is granting the Utah STEM Foundation \$75,000 to support the Utah STEM Action Center (STEM AC) in launching the "Utah STEM Collective Impact" study.

"We are ecstatic about Boeing's level of commitment to STEM education in the State of Utah," said Allison Spencer, director of the Utah STEM Foundation. "Boeing has been an industry champion, working with many key stakeholders to assess the effectiveness of our efforts in STEM education and talent development."

The "Utah STEM Collective Impact" analysis focuses on the impact of STEM education efforts to prepare Utah students for entry into STEM careers while also gauging

their bearing on the state's long-term economic growth. Boeing's contribution will allow the STEM AC to expand their collaborative work with existing partners, including Davis School District and the Utah Education Policy Center, to measure impacts of STEM education efforts.

"Our people have unique skills and an unwavering passion for making a difference in the world, both through our products and services, and the ways we give back to our communities," said Dennis Muilenburg, Boeing chairman, president and chief executive officer. "When that's combined with our professional networks, partnerships and financial resources, we have the potential to drive positive, lasting change across the globe

in important areas such as STEM learning."

Information gathered in the course of this analysis will build upon data the STEM AC and other partners have collected to help maximize outcomes and inform future activities.

"We are excited about the collaborative nature of this project," said Dr. Tamar Goetz, STEM Action Center executive director. "Are students gravitating to STEM fields because of these efforts? Choosing STEM careers? We need to identify effective practices, as well as understand how we are making a difference and where we can improve our efforts to promote student interest. Boeing's generous support helps us to build our capacity to work with partners to address critical longitudinal questions."

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