

Government shutdown forces closure of national parks

Because of the shutdown of the federal government caused by the lapse in appropriations, the National Park Service has closed all 401 national parks and suspended operation of dozens of community assistance

programs.

All park grounds, visitor centers, hotels, campgrounds, and park roads – except for thru ways – are closed. All programs are canceled and permits issued for special events on park grounds nation-

wide are rescinded.

Park visitors in all overnight campgrounds and lodges have been given until no later than 6 p.m. (Eastern Daylight Time) on Thursday, October 3 to make other arrangements and leave

the park.

National parks will remain closed until the government reopens.

The National Park System hosts more than 282 million people per year, and more than 715,000 people per day in October. Those visitors spend about \$76 million per day in communities near national parks.

Examples of impacts of a shutdown of the National Park Service include:

- 15,000 people a day planning to visit the Statue of Liberty will have their reservations cancelled.

- All mule trips in Grand Canyon National Park, an iconic tradition dating back more than 125 years, will be cancelled.

- More than 7,500 people a day coming to enjoy Old Faithful and the other splendors of Yellowstone National Park will be turned away.

- The cancellation of thousands of interpretive and education programs and special events at parks across the country.

- An October shutdown is costing the National Park Service an estimated \$450,000 per day in lost

revenue from fees collected at entry stations and fees paid for in-park activities such as cave tours, boat rides and camping.

- The shutdown will affect more than 20,000 National Park Service employees, who are furloughed until an appropriation is passed (3,000 employees continue to work, providing essential services, including security, emergency services and firefighting).

- Additionally, approximately 25,000 concession employees are employed in national parks during the summer and about half of them are still on the job in early October.

Because it will not be maintained, the National Park Service website will be down for the duration of the shutdown, closing off access to 750,000 web pages about national parks and programs.

NPS.gov is used extensively for educational purposes and travel planning by 91 million unique visitors every year.

For updates on the shutdown, please visit www.doi.gov/shutdown.

G2G 2013 Round-up

By Susana Young

The City of Kanab was invited to welcome the G2G runners and staff at Jacob Hamblin Park last Saturday, where lunch was provided to all by the BLM. Matt Brown interviewed many of the participants as they arrived off the bus from the finish line near

the top of the Pink Cliffs. Some typical runner comments: "It was the most difficult thing I've ever done. The scenery is so beautiful – it helps take the mind off the pain. The camaraderie was heartwarming. I've made some incredible new friends. The support provided at checkpoints, at the finish line, and in camp was a godsend. The sand is exceptionally challenging... like the Sahara and Gobi wrapped together."

There were blisters, hairline stress fractures, sore joints, extreme fatigue, freezing temperatures – yet the pain and suffering were endured with valor and determination as each runner searched for the strength and determination to complete the race.

Henda Salmeron, a South African living in Texas, ran to celebrate her four-year cancer survivorship. She found it was easier to just crawl over the dunes.

Stacy Boone, of Pagosa Springs, Colorado, said after Stage 4 "This is a really hard race. My

worst fear was that I would finish, and not want to do it again. But I can tell you now, I want to do this again. The only thing I would change is my socks. I got a two-layer kind that is supposed to prevent blisters, but in this terrain, sand gets caught between the layers and I have to keep stopping

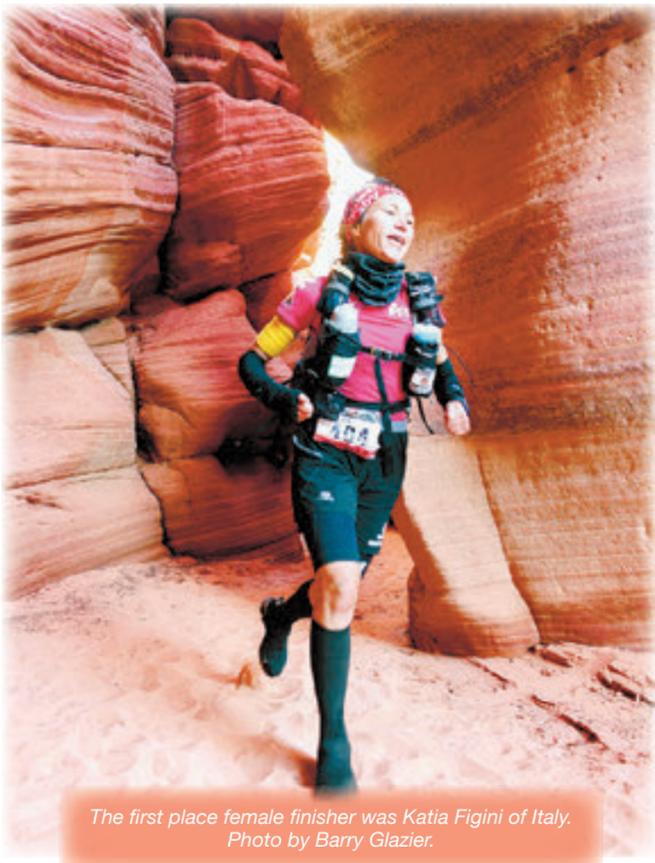
Husband and wife Karen and Russ Mullen from Ottawa, Canada ran the race together. They are both in the Canadian military: Karen in the Army; Russ in the Air Force. "We didn't expect this race to be such an event! It has been absolutely beautiful!"

Glen Kim, a Type II diabetic, was inspired by his daughter to get more active. He started walking, then running, then doing marathons. G2G was his biggest challenge and celebration of health. In the long stage, his blood sugar crashed and the medics took him out of the race. Even though disappointed at being disqualified from the race, he completed the next two stages anyway.

Vincent Antunez is an active-duty Army Major in Afghanistan working as an Orthopedic PA. He ran last year. He had hoped to volunteer as a medic for this year's race, but by the time he was certain he could get leave, the medic positions were filled. So when he saw that five who ran last year were running again this year, he decided to join them.

Several runners from last year returned to volunteer this year. For example, Payge McMahon, a popular adventure athlete and sports writer, said that last year was magical. "When I saw on Facebook how many were returning this year, I just had to come back. They are such great people and I

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The first place female finisher was Katia Figini of Italy. Photo by Barry Glazier.



Julie Jenson, mother of seven, was one of two locals who participated in the Grand 2 Grand Ultra Marathon. Photo by Troy Snow.



Omar Davis was the other local who ran, walked and probably even crawled the 167 miles of the G2G Ultra. Photo by Troy Snow.



Crossing the sand dunes was one of the toughest parts of the G2G. Photo by Matt Brown. All photos courtesy of the Grand to Grand Ultra.

Local G2G runners finish strong

By Susana Young

Julie Jenson and Omar Davis were Kanab's G2G participants this year. They brought honor and pride to our town by their amazing trek.

Omar Davis, after the 52.6-mile long stage, enthused, "That was epic! I found some people to run with. We talked and just kept moving. We didn't stop to sleep. We arrived at camp around 9 a.m. – over 24 hours from the time we started the day before. He slept about an hour after arriving in camp, then was up and about again.

Davis was seen always with a big smile. As someone commented on his slow and deliberate walk at the end of the race, he quipped, "This is the G2G shuffle."

One of the toughest things was the cold, especially the last night. Davis was wearing everything he brought, but was still shivering. It was forecasted that the temperature would drop another 20 degrees. Omar said it never crossed his mind to quit.

Jenson said it was an amazing adventure, with lots of ups and downs. "It was incredibly difficult – a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

She started strong, finishing

in seventh place among females after two stages. "I felt strong through the second stage, then began to feel sick and worried that I couldn't go on. It was discouraging to think I had trained so hard and yet could hardly walk." Her knee was so sore she couldn't put weight on it.

A guy, seeing her hobbling, offered her a stick he found on the ground. She took it gratefully, and called the stick "Faith." As she realized others were suffering too, she cried. She thought, "If they can do it, I can." She later knew she needed another stick, found one, and called it "Work." "I needed both faith and work to keep me going," she said. "One day I forgot my sticks after I'd left camp. I had to turn back to get them. I couldn't leave them behind."

Jenson told her kids (she is a mother of seven) she limped all the way on the long stage, but the advantage of having to slow down was that she was now able to meet more participants, chat with them while walking, see their suffering, and make new friends. They gave her strength.

KANAB WEATHER

Date	High	Low	Prec
25	80	63	
26	75	55	
27	65	63	
28	71	56	
29	79	56	
30	79	59	

September Precip. - 1.64"

Courtesy:
Wayne & Stacy Grosz

INSIDE THE SUN THIS WEEK:



Beverly Dinsmore Honored - Page 3



Mark Abernathy in Concert - Page 7



Writer's Conference Speaker Laurisa Reyes - Page 10



Special Olympics Swim for Gold - Page 10