

GIRLS CLEAR COMP AT MEET.

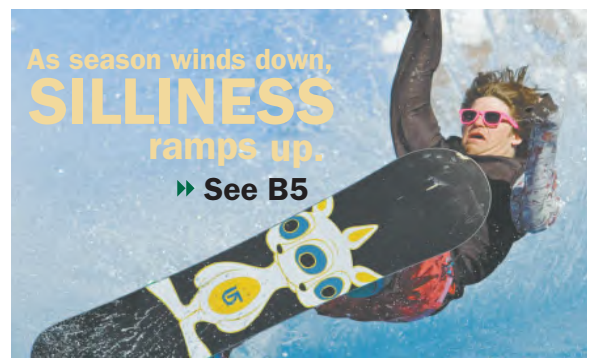
▶ See B3

SPORTS

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Bladies come up big.
▶ See B3



As season winds down, **SILLINESS** ramps up.
▶ See B5

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Another cold, dark night ...

Grand Traverse pushes the human spirit to its limit



More than 250 adventurous souls toed the line, which was located behind the Crested Butte Community School, at the stroke of midnight Friday for the 12th annual Elk Mountains Grand Traverse.

Photo by Matt Smith

Matt Smith
Times Staff Writer

It was around 5 a.m. on Saturday morning when Jake Jones felt an icy trickle meander down his right leg and into the balmy boot attached to his alpine touring gear.

As he slid to a stop in the silence of twilight, the distant sound of winds whipping around Star Pass — at 12,303 feet deep in the Colorado backcountry — escalated the sinking feeling in

his stomach. At the mid-way point of the epic 40-mile slog that is the Grand Traverse (GT), turning back was not an option.

“It was sort of like putting my foot into a creek, which I’ve done before (in the Grand Traverse),” said Jones, now an eight-year veteran of the race. “I felt water kind of going down my leg and as soon as I checked my hose I was basically sucking air.”

Maintaining his calm, Jones shot a glance toward his teammate and deliv-

ered the unfortunate news — his hydration pack had hit the skids. Moments of frozen quiet passed before Pat O’Neill quipped, “You know, you don’t really need water in this race.”

Everyone who enters the Grand Traverse has similar tales of adversity and adventure. If anybody knows about the intestinal fortitude it takes to finish a GT, however, it’s O’Neil.

The Crested Butte school teacher earned a spot on the podium for the ninth time out of his 11 GT journeys

— three of which included being on the first team to cross the finish line at the base of Aspen Mountain ski area.

“It actually became pretty humorous,” O’Neill said of he and Jones’ watershed moment. “We had agreed prior to the race that no matter what factors were thrown at us, we were going to stay positive and not lose our heads.”

Once enough collective courage was assembled, it was back to bat-

▶ Traverse on page B6

Big swing beats Bruins

Cowboys down No. 8 CHS, 4-3

Matt Smith
Times Staff Writer

GHS Baseball — Senior Dayne Luekenga blasted a three-run home run in the bottom of the fourth inning Tuesday to lift the Gunnison High (GHS) baseball team to a 4-3 victory over the eighth-ranked Cedaredge Bruins.

The win improved the Cowboys to 7-1 for the season

▶ **WRAP-UP**



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▶ **NEXT**

Saturday vs. Hotchkiss; 11 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Tuesday at Monte Vista; 4 p.m.

▶ Baseball on page B2



Hockey champions

The GVHA Recreational Hockey League came to a close Tuesday night as Fast Eddie’s team skated over Gunnison Bank & Trust in the final match-up of the season. Fast Eddie’s went undefeated in tournament play, and finished the regular season with an 8-7 record.

Backrow (l-r): Craig Reinecke, Dan Marshall, Steve Crittendon, Dom Eymere, Jason Tisdale, Jarral Ryter, Erica Buscovich and Heidi Sherratt

Frontrow (l-r): Eddie Ware (defensive captain), Dodson Harper (offensive captain), Fred Salas, Bill Barvitski, Clinton Nichols, Suzie Parker, Megan Wenum and center is goalie Jerad Tisdale. Not pictured, Bill Crittendon.

Photo by Stephen J. Pierotti

GEP members still on the move

Callahan wins Moab 100

Gunnison Endurance Project (GEP) team members Duncan Callahan, Keri Nelson and Timmy Parr are still on the move. Last weekend, Callahan finished the Moab 100-mile Endurance Race in 18-hours, 51-minutes, winning by well over 5.3 miles (the mileage of one lap on the repeating loop course).

Callahan completed the first 50 miles in a blazing 7-hours, 50-minutes. He slowed a little the last 25 miles, finishing at 1:50 a.m.

“I felt pretty good most of the way,” Callahan said, “and went out a little fast to experiment with pacing for future races.”

▶ Callahan on page B2

Douglas Campbell, D.O.
Ophthalmologist

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