

CENTRAL MINNESOTA'S HOME ON THE WEB



“ I could be reading this where? ”

In bed

- Home
- Local News
- Sports
- Opinion
- Business
- Weather
- Entertainment
- > Life
- Celebrations
- Obituaries
- Education
- State/Region
- Nation/World
- Tech
- Archives
- Special Reports
- Customer Service
- Contact Us

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Weather: 74°F Sunny Forecast »

FIND » Apartments Cars Classifieds Jobs Real Estate Shopping Search

Life

Everest's summit draws 2 local men

By Amy Bowen
abowen@stcloudtimes.com

+ Enlarge



Neal Mueller

Story Chat

comment

printable version e-mail this story

Mount Everest's greatest challenge seduced two men with local connections.

The mountain reaches about 29,000 feet in the sky, and is the tallest in the world. In the Asian Himalaya mountain range, Neal Mueller, whose grandmother, Flora Shinkle, lives in Cold Spring, and Tom Torkelson, a Sauk Rapids native, scaled Everest on separate trips. Both summited it earlier this month.

"I had this goal to climb the southern summit," Mueller said. "Being able to achieve what you set up to achieve makes you feel like you can do anything."

Mueller climbed the Nepal side of the mountain. Torkelson climbed the Tibet side. The trips took months to complete. Mueller of Chaska started the climb March 28, and Torkelson started in April.

Torkelson, a mountain climbing guide and videographer, is documenting a woman's quest to climb some of the world's highest mountains. Mueller wants to finish climbing the highest mountain on each of the seven continents by the end of the year.

The men don't know each other.

Conquering Everest took intense training. The terrain was rocky, steep and tough to maneuver through. The men's endurance, heart and lungs had to be in top condition.

"I've been a mountain guide for 10 years, and I was surprised how difficult it would be," said Torkelson, who will move from Wyoming to Chile soon.

Climbers work their way up the mountain at night, when the weather is better, Mueller said. On the last day of his climb, Mueller wanted to give up. The wind threw him "around like a baby doll." His body screamed in pain as he made it up the mountain. It took 12 to 13 hours to get to the top, he said.

Other nearby mountains were shadowed by Mount Everest.

"It was pretty humbling to see those giants below me," Mueller said.

Mueller wants to climb Mount Kosiuszko, the highest point in Australia, in December. He will then have climbed the highest peaks on each of the seven continents. Torkelson will document two climbs at Carstensz Pyramid in New Guinea and Mount Elbrus in Georgia, near Russia, in the next 14 months, he said.



SEARCH FOR A JOB

Enter Keywords

GO

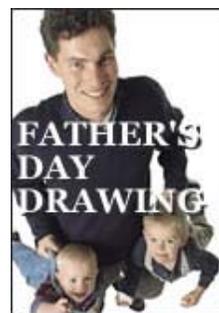


FIND SALES & DEALS BEFORE YOU SHOP

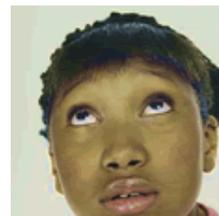
zipcode

GO

- Advertisements -
CONTESTS & SPECIAL SECTIONS
Check out
THE BOTTOM LINE
CLICK HERE



AdLink:
the week's hottest ads



See all ads

Miss a day, miss a lot.

SUBSCRIBE HERE

Place your classified ad HERE!

MARKET GUIDE

Jobs

Cars

Apartments

Real Estate

Shopping

Classifieds

Auctions

GUIDES & DIRECTORIES

- Seasonal Fun
- Contact Your Official
- Wedding Guide
- School Watch
- Golf Directory
- Coupons
- Child Care
- Churches
- Communities
- Visitor's Guide
- Merchant Guide
- Gas Price Watch
- Women in Business
- Years in Business



▲ go to top

More lifestyle stories

- ⌘ Everest's summit draws 2 local men
- ⌘ Tactics help ease back pain during sleep

CONTESTS & SPECIAL SECTIONS
THE BOTTOM LINE

Featured Advertising Sections



- New! Area Festival Guide
- 2005 Golf Guide
- Summer Fun
- 150 Years of Stearns County



June 23-26
WWW.FEST
 2005



PDF FORMAT
Area Vacation Ideas

Sponsored by



PARTNERS






News | Entertainment | Apartments | Cars | Classifieds | Jobs | Real Estate | Shopping

Use of this site signifies your agreement to the Terms of Service (updated 12/31/2002)
 © 2005 St. Cloud Times. All Rights Reserved