

Advertiser



WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS

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THIS WEEK

News: »

Three-vehicle crash sends six to hospital



The Jaws of Life were put into action for the first time this year by the Grand Falls-Windsor Fire Department on Monday in a three-vehicle collision that sent six people to hospital.

[FULL STORY]

King named RCMP police officer of the year



Grand Falls-Windsor native Cst. Peter King found it difficult to address the crowd when he was named RCMP police officer of the year on January 31.

[FULL STORY]

RCMP emergency response plan implemented in two local schools



Two schools in this region are among the first in the country to be set up with a plan

News:

Mountaineer conquers highest peak in South America



Still searching for funds for Everest

JENNIFER PELLEY Advertiser

The excitement of heading off to conquer the highest peak in the world is at the forefront of TA Loeffler's mind these days, as she prepares herself for the trip of a lifetime for any mountaineer.

Mountain climber TA Loeffler is selling the Newfoundland and Labrador tricolour flag on EBay that she recently carried to the summit of Aconcagua, the highest peak in South America. The money raised from selling the flag will help fund her upcoming trip to climb Mount Everest.

Five weeks from Saturday on what will be St. Patrick's Day, she's leaving the province to travel to Nepal, where she will embark on what will be one of the greatest challenges of her life – climbing Mount Everest.

But before she leaves, she is hoping to have significantly more money raised to help fund the incredibly expensive venture. The total cost to climb Everest is about \$60,000 – to date, she has about half of that raised.

Dr. Loeffler's fundraising efforts thus far have been at the grassroots level. She has been receiving individual donations from people inspired by her lofty goal as well as cash infusions from the various schools she has been speaking at.

Besides standing on the world's highest peak (even planes often do not fly as high as the top of Everest), Dr. Loeffler has made it her mission to educate and inspire the youth of Newfoundland and Labrador to dream big, keep physically active, and to believe in themselves. To achieve this part of her mission, she has been visiting schools across the province for almost a year talking about her own biggest goal in a lighthearted but meaningful interactive presentation that has captured the undivided attention of many listeners.

Dr. Loeffler has also been selling tuques and T-shirts to help with fundraising and giving public talks at the INCO Theatre in St. John's, where she currently lives and works as a professor of human kinetics at Memorial University, to help with fundraising.

"I'm going to go no matter what," she said. "I've re-mortgaged my house to do this. But at this point, any funding I can liberate is helpful. It will just sort of take a load off of my mind and I can concentrate on the climbing as opposed to what I'm coming home to."

She had been hoping to land a fairly big corporate sponsor for her expedition, but so far nothing has come through, although she admits things may (hopefully) change between now and the time she leaves. However, since most of her fundraising has been grassroots so far, she tries to put it in perspective for all those people who think their small donation may not count for much.

"If 30,000 people would give me a buck each, that would do it," she

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for police to respond to incidents in school effectively and efficiently.

[FULL STORY]

Environment minister weighs in on province's declining caribou population



As of late, there has been a lot of controversy across the province due to large-scale cuts to caribou quotas of outfitters by government in an attempt to deal with the declining caribou population.

*Jennifer Pelley, associate editor with the **Advertiser**, caught up with Clyde Jackman, minister of environment and conservation, this week to discuss the reasons why the population has been decreasing and what government is doing to curb the decline.*

[FULL STORY]

National Day of Action



Get student loan in order to attend university. Attend university to obtain education. Graduate and find job. Be incredibly crippled with debt for a long, long time.

Sound familiar?

[FULL STORY]

Children benefit from newspaper

[FULL STORY]

said.

And by the same token, she said all the donations she has received so far have moved her deeply.

"It's just amazingly moving and in some ways those kinds of gestures will keep me going in the hard times," she said. "It's a little bit delicate because I can't kind of let that sentimentality push me into situations that I shouldn't be into, but my hope is that I carry that support and it gets me through the times when I have to push through hard spots. And they will exist. It's a long exhibition – 10 weeks. It will be the longest one I've done."

ACONCAGUA

A unique way in which Dr. Loeffler is trying to rally some much-needed cash is by posting the Newfoundland and Labrador tricolour flag on EBay that she recently took to the summit of Aconcagua, the highest peak in South America that she conquered on Dec. 28, 2006. People can bid on the flag, which will be awarded to the highest bidder.

Dr. Loeffler said for awhile on Aconcagua, it did not look like she and members of her climbing group were going to make it to the summit. When they arrived at base camp, they asked how many people had reached the summit this season. Only six out of 900 made it due to severe wind and cold.

"So then we moved up to camp one and we actually got pinned at camp one by that same kind of weather for five days," she said. "There was definitely some scary wind – wind that could shred your tent and if you lose your tent, you lose your expedition."

But the group held the fort down and calculated they needed five good days of weather in a row in order to make the summit based on the amount of food they had and travel schedules. Up to that point, they only had one good day of weather at a time.

"We just kept moving up and just kept trying to hold the face and as it turned out, we did get five good days, or five reasonable days at least," said Dr. Loeffler. "So four out of 10 of us did have the privilege of getting to the top."

The other six climbers turned back at various stages on the mountain for reasons that included moving too slowly and being too spent by the time they reached camp to have a good enough margin of safety or just realizing they did not have it in them at that stage.

"I had a moment on summit day where I asked myself the question, did I have it in me that day?" said Dr. Loeffler. "As it turns out, it was a matter of groceries. I just sort of needed a snack. So once I had a snack onboard I was ready to go again."

Upon reaching the summit, Dr. Loeffler had her picture taken with the tricolour flag she is now selling on EBay, as well as the official Newfoundland and Labrador flag that has travelled to the top of all three mountains with her.

"It was a real boost to actually get to summit. It was a big confidence boost," she said.

EVEREST EXPEDITION

Dr. Loeffler's Everest expedition is part of a greater goal to summit the highest peak on all seven continents. She already has Denali (or Mount McKinley) in Alaska, North America; Elbrus in Russia, Europe; and now Aconcagua, in Argentina, South America firmly tucked under her belt.

Left for her are Everest, which she will hopefully summit around mid-May as part of a six to eight week expedition; Vinson Massif in Antarctica; and Kilimanjaro in Africa. There is some controversy surrounding the highest peak in Australia.

Some people say it is Kosciuszko, which is actually on Australia. Others say it is Carstensz Pyramid in Indonesia, which is part of the Australasia region in the south Pacific. Dr. Loeffler reckons she will climb both of them at some point, just to make sure.

Now that Everest is fast approaching, Dr. Loeffler says she is "alternating somewhere between terror and excitement." And on top of trying to physically and mentally prepare for the challenge, she is still upholding her teaching duties at Memorial, giving presentations at 24 schools between now and then, and trying to somehow raise \$30,000.

"It's been the best juggling act of my life that I've ever done," she

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Children benefit from newspaper's fundraiser



Children being served by the Central Newfoundland Regional Health Centre will be the beneficiaries of some much-needed equipment that will be bought through the **Advertiser's** Christmas fundraiser Tree For Tots.

[FULL STORY]

Mountaineer conquers highest peak in South America



The excitement of heading off to conquer the highest peak in the world is at the forefront of TA Loeffler's mind these days, as she prepares herself for the trip of a lifetime for any mountaineer.

[FULL STORY]

Editorial:: »

Crippling debt major issue for students

Imagine attending university for free – without a full-blown athletic scholarship, that is.

[FULL STORY]

Sports:: »

Juniors no kitty-cats against baby Royals



It is a position they have hoped to be in since the start of the season, but they also know that getting to the big game is only half the battle.

[FULL STORY]

said, laughing.

And she has very little time to recuperate after Aconcagua. She landed back in Newfoundland on Jan. 2 after the 20-day expedition and took less than a week off before starting up her demanding Everest training regime again.

She has also been accumulating the gear she will need to climb Everest, which will include a satellite phone and a personal digital assistant that will allow her to send text messages and photos off the mountain, which will be posted onto her website. She is encouraging everyone in the province to follow along as she attempts to summit Everest by visiting www.taloeffler.com. As well, if anyone would like to make a donation to the expedition, the website is set up to receive donations via Palpal, or Dr. Loeffler's contact information can be found there to mail in a donation.

Other News:

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COLUMNS: ANDY BARKER - Iceberg alley

November past, I went to see a movie, but mistakenly I had arrived at the theatre too early. It was a wonderful mild night, and with time to kill, I decided to stroll over around the mill.



I stopped near the Number 3 building, and gazed at the imposing, structure. In the midst of the noise, the blackness, I had the sensation that the towering hulk, with steam roaring from its roof stacks, was a colossal ghost ship barreling out to sea.

Its formidable size brought to mind another mammoth structure, also thought to be unsinkable, the Titanic. It went down off our shores in 1912 in an area known as Iceberg Alley.

[FULL STORY]

COLUMNS: ARTHUR BLACK - The not-so-sporting life

Not to bum you out or anything, but there's some lowlife scumbag wandering around shooting deer with a crossbow.



Not 'hunting' them, you understand. Not 'harvesting' or 'culling' or any of those other euphemisms we two-legged predators like to employ – just shooting them and leaving them to die.

Or whatever.

[FULL STORY]

