

Date: Sep 15, 2011; Section: Community; Page: A11

# Climber to address playground event



**Tom Whittaker, the first person with a disability to summit Mount Everest, will be the keynote speaker at a Brooklyn's Playground event being presented in cooperation with CW Hog on Friday, Sept. 16 at the L.E. and Thelma E. Stephens Performing Arts Center. Titled "A Summit Celebration," the evening will also feature a performance by the ISU Children's Chorus.**

**SUBMITTED BY CW HOG**  
**POCATELLO** — Tom Whittaker, the first person with a disability to summit Mount Everest, will be the keynote speaker at a Brooklyn's Playground event being presented in cooperation with CW HOG on Friday, Sept. 16 at the L.E. and Thelma E. Stephens Performing Arts Center. Titled "A Summit Celebration," the evening will also feature a performance by the ISU Children's Chorus.



**Whittaker**

Whittaker made climbing history in 1998 when, on his third attempt, he reached the summit of Mount Everest after having lost his right foot and kneecap in a 1979 automobile accident. His accomplishment was captured in the CBS documentary, "Footprint on Everest," which won the Teddy Award for Best Adventure Documentary. Whittaker later chronicled his journey in the book, "Higher Purpose."

Whittaker is no stranger to Pocatello. He founded and served as director of CW HOG, the Cooperative Wilderness Handicapped Outdoor Group, at Idaho State

University before moving on to teach wilderness leadership studies as a professor at Prescott College in Arizona.

He has established an international reputation as an extreme adventurer and mountaineer, and has become a much sought-after motivational speaker and trainer in corporate teamwork and leadership. His services have been retained by corporations as diverse as IBM, Dell, Merrill Lynch, NASA and National Geographic.

Admission to the event is \$12. Doors open at 7 p.m., with the keynote presentation scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Net proceeds will benefit Brooklyn's Playground.

A list of ticket outlets can be seen on the Brooklyn's Playground website at [www.BrooklynsPlayground.org](http://www.BrooklynsPlayground.org).

Brooklyn's Playground is the Valley Pride-led effort to build the community's first inclusive playground at OK Ward Park in Pocatello. These special playgrounds are designed to allow children with disabilities to play side-by-side with their non-disabled peers in a safe, stimulating and fun environment. Located centrally for the valley, Brooklyn's Playground will be the destination of choice for the area's children, and will be a community asset for years to come.