

'Three Cups of Tea' author Greg Mortenson to visit Longview on Tuesday

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Two-time Nobel prize nominee Greg Mortenson, author of the best-selling "Three Cups of Tea" and the more recent "Stones into Schools," will make several stops in Longview on Tuesday.

Mortenson is scheduled to meet with high school students early in the day, and at 7 p.m. he will speak in a public appearance at the R.A. Long High School auditorium. It wasn't certain Monday whether tickets, priced at \$35, still were available.

Lower Columbia CAP, located at 1526 Commerce Ave. in Longview, arranged Mortenson's visit.

A doctor and mountain climber, Mortenson was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2009 and 2010 in recognition of his humanitarian work building schools in the rugged mountains of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

As described in "Three Cups of Tea," Mortenson made an unsuccessful attempt to climb K2 in Pakistan. Upon his descent, he became lost and would have perished without the hospitality of villagers who cared for him.

In gratitude, Mortenson promised to return some day and build a school for their village. His pledge included girls as students, breaking a cultural taboo and winning over the leaders of local tribes to the idea that education is necessary for all children.