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Tepui Tents founder Evan Currid, right, and business partner Bernard Bove at the Soquel business that makes unique car roof tents.

# Innovating camping

*Bus* Soquel company offers customers a new and unique way to enjoy the outdoors 8-7-13

By LUKE BARNES

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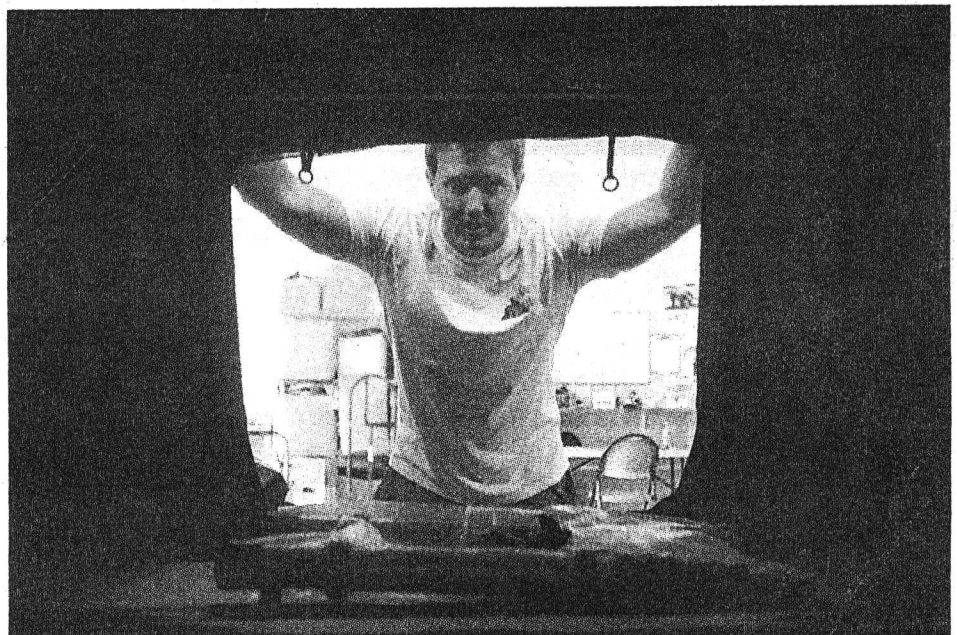
**SOQUEL** — A local company is offering its customers a new and unique way to enjoy the outdoors.

Tepui Tents makes a unique design of tent that attaches to the roof of a car, suspended via a roof rack. This allows the tents to be set up quickly and easily, and offers added protection from animals as well as increased comfort, according to the company.

"If you go camping with one of these you'll know everyone in the campsite by the end of the trip," said Evan Currid, one of the founders of Tepui Tents. "You're not going to be bothered by insects, raccoons and snakes, and there's a two to three minute setup."

Currid first came up with the idea when he was on vacation in Venezuela with his wife three years ago. He noticed that a large number of campers had rooftop tents, and thought the idea would work well in the U.S.

"We originally tried to import the tents from Venezuela," said Currid. "But it didn't work,

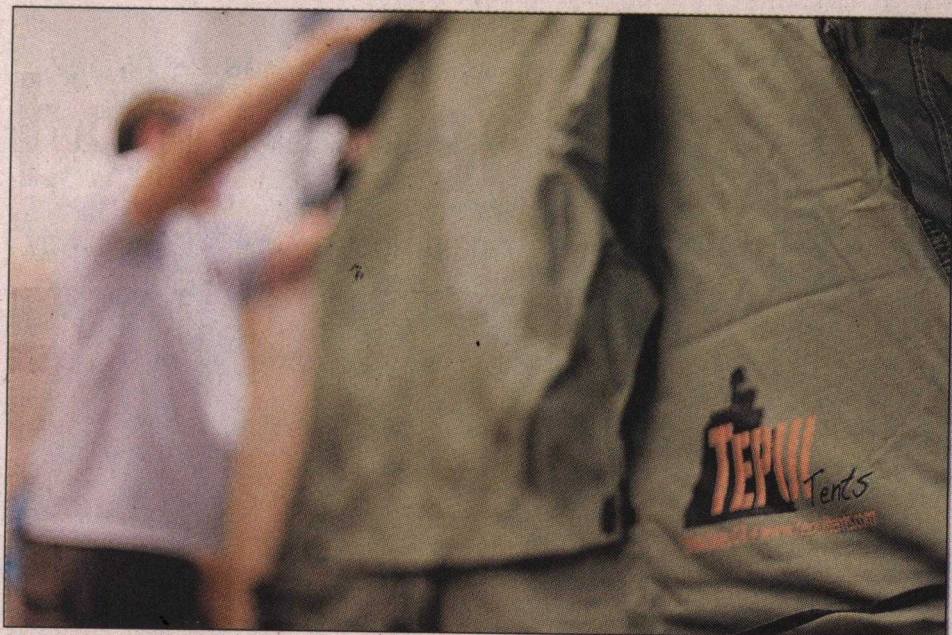


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SEE **CAMP** ON C3

Evan Currid, founder at Tepui Tents, looks into one of his tents.





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Tepui Tents is a local outdoor adventure company that makes unique car roof tents.

## CAMP

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so we started our own business instead, and nailed down two models we can rely on."

The word "Tepui" refers to a table-top type of mountain found in the Guiana Highlands of South America, where Currid got the idea.

The tent and mattress base are made from aluminum and Styrofoam, while the canvas is made of waterproof poly cotton.

"It provides a nice rigid foundation, which is hard but light," said Bernard Bove, Currid's business partner. "It also won't rust, and that's a big component."

Bove, who was a wood-working manufacturer from Aptos, got involved with Tepui Tents when Currid visited his shop looking to get his surfboard repaired.

"I was eager to get involved," he said. "The con-

cept's great."

During the past three years, the business has grown. Tepui now ships all over the U.S. Currid said that its biggest current market is the four by four enthusiast and the company has links with Santa Cruz Four-wheel drive club and the Northern California Land Rover club.

They had even received two recent orders from Hungary. "They had to pay shipping on that though," Currid said.

Tepui's most popular types of tent are the "Kuke-nam" model, at \$900, and the "Autana" at \$1,325. Model

## TEPUI TENTS

**WHAT:** Local tent maker

**WHERE:** 2703 41st Ave., Soquel

**COST:** Prices range from \$695 for [Ayer] tent to \$1,650 for [Great Savanna] tent. Prices do not include shipping.

**INFORMATION:** Call 800-301-9874, email sales@teputents.com or go to [www.teputents.com](http://www.teputents.com)

prices range however from \$700 to \$1,650.

Currid said while he was happy that the company was growing, he wanted to be cautious.

"We're doing a throttled expansion and learning as we go," he said. "We're building the brand, not just trying to sell tents."

The reaction to the tents from customers has been positive, with testimonials on their webpage to the abilities of and comfort of the tent.

"We did have a customer who had a bear encounter," said Currid. "He was really glad to be up there in the tent."