



*WHERE ALL THE WOMEN ARE STRONG (NOT REALLY)
ALL THE MEN ARE GOOD-LOOKING (SORT OF)
AND ALL OF THE CHILDREN'S CHEEKS ARE ABOVE AVERAGE.*



Package arrives after extended delay

Earlier this fall, a young boy in Gustavus, Alaska decided that he needed to get the heck out of dodge after being stuck in his small town since March due to the pandemic. After gathering his allowance money, he shipped himself to relatives in sunny Colorado, thinking the journey would take just three or four days.

Little did he know that historic volumes of mail and packages would cause significant backlogs at U.S. Postal Service processing facilities. For weeks, his box was stuck in an overloaded USPS warehouse in Kent, WA. Finally, several days after Christmas, the package finally arrived at its destination.



His stunned aunt, who received the box in Colorado, told reporters, "He says that when he mailed himself, he easily fit inside the box...but by the time he arrived in Colorado, he had grown so much that he busted out the top!"



Photo of blue skies over Glacier Bay deemed fake

Beloved local photographer Sean Neilson was recently disgraced when he admitted that he had used Photoshop to portray blue, cloudless skies over Glacier Bay in a photo from summer 2020.



"I was just trying to cheer people up when I altered the picture. I should have known that locals would detect the fraud instantly after such a rainy, cloudy summer. I sincerely apologize." Neilson later clarified that the pose struck by his daughter in the photo was 100% genuine after several fans questioned that component of the photo. "You can't make this stuff up," he said with a smile.

Lockdown eating – a cautionary culinary tale

At the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, medical experts stressed the importance of wholesome eating to maintain a healthy immune system, and for a brief time, Sean and Janet Neilson were able to convince

their children to make healthy choices. Kale and kelp were regular menu items at the family dinner table, with remarkable results including glowing complexions, serene moods, and restful sleep.



As summer passed and the pandemic raged on, the Neilson family decided to up their game, harvesting a large crop of garlic from their garden to ward off the virus.



Unfortunately, too much of a good thing is never a good thing, and after several months of binging on raw garlic, combined with a lack of sunshine, they found their glowing complexions were replaced with a sickly gray pallor that was extreme even by Southeast Alaska standards, where everyone looks like crap by late October.



Luckily, 13-year-old Téa quickly discovered an antidote that cleared up the symptoms and restored the family to health: a daily dose of sugar.

By December, the family reported that they were feeling much better. “We haven’t been to the dentist in forever due to the pandemic, but so far at least, we still have all of our teeth!” The Neilsons recently ordered a case of toothpaste from Amazon but with shipping delays, it isn’t expected to arrive until June.



Pandemic transforms telemedicine in 2020

One silver lining of the Covid-19 pandemic has been increased access to telemedicine. Here, Skyler Neilson attends a remote telemedicine appointment with his doctor from the shores of Tarr Inlet in Glacier Bay.



Say “aahh!”

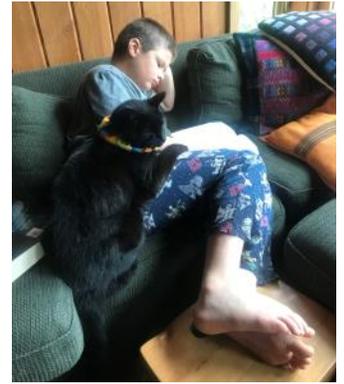
The National Park Service has announced that game cams placed in Glacier Bay National Park for wildlife and visitor studies will soon double as telemedicine hubs as part of the park’s new Backcountry Management Plan.



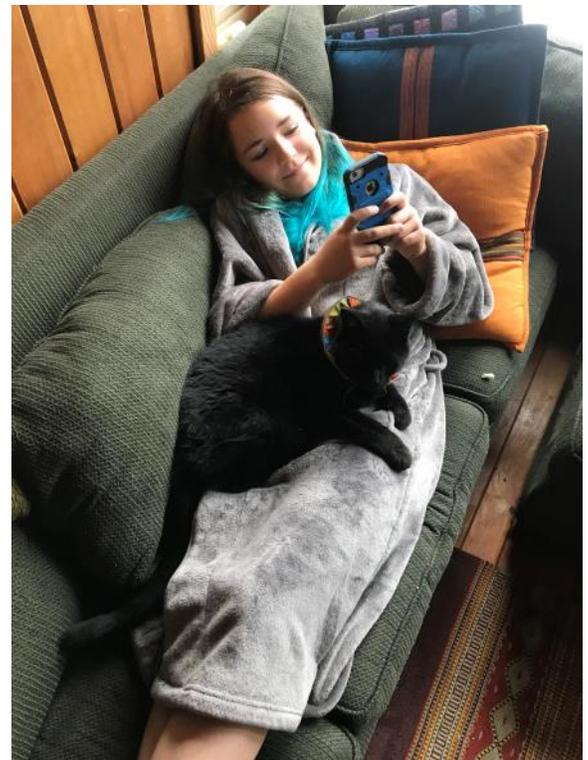
Cardio stress tests conducted while hiking are more accurate than those conducted in a traditional office setting. (NPS photo)

Boy teaches cat to read

Feline fans will be delighted to learn that over the course of several months this year, a young boy in rural Alaska taught his cat to read. While 9-year-old Skyler Neilson prefers school to be held in-person, his cat, Oliver, clearly prefers homeschooling. “Luckily we both love lying on the couch curled up with a good book.” With the recent reopening of the Gustavus Library, they will both have plenty to read.



In the meantime, Skyler’s older sister is working on Oliver’s next lesson - teaching the precocious cat how to text. “He’s already better at it and faster than my mom — which isn’t saying much!” She says that next up will be teaching the cat about social media, although so far Oliver has not exhibited any desire to be social with others of his kind.



Stiff competition in “Extreme Makeover Gustavus”

Father and daughter Sean and Téa Neilson ran neck-and-neck against each other in the most recent season of “Extreme Makeover Gustavus”. This year, contestants had to overcome unprecedented challenges in creating their new looks, most notably a complete lack of professional salon services brought on by the pandemic.



Sean started the season out strong, wowing fans with a stunning transformation from a regrettable mullet to a more contemporary coiffed look.



In the end, though, there was never any doubt that fan favorite Téa would win the competition.



Throughout the year, judges and fans alike were continuously impressed by the teen’s versatility and wide array of styles. At times it was a dizzying ride, but with each new look she proved she could pull off anything.



The fearless 13-year-old culminated the season by unveiling her most bold look yet, sealing her place as the grand prize winner.



Voles named pet of the year

After a bumper crop of voles invaded Southeast Alaska in 2020, a young boy there decided to adopt one as a pet. Here he is seen working on leash training with his pet vole on a rare sunny day.



“Heel!”

True Love in Alaska

Sean Neilson of Gustavus, Alaska, recently confided to friends that earlier in 2020, he had an extramarital affair with his boat engine. Sheepishly, he admitted that for the past few years, he had admired her 78 horsepower from afar, but this summer the two developed a hands-on, intimate relationship.



He said, “She just seemed so dependable and strong, and that smoky diesel smell was irresistible.” However, by late fall, the spark of the affair had fizzled as Neilson realized just how high maintenance the engine was compared to his trophy wife of 15 years, Janet.

Snack Company Announces Edible Bags

In the highly competitive snack food industry, one company has come up with an ingenious and environmentally friendly marketing strategy: fully edible bags.



An eco-friendly family in Southeast Alaska that loves snacks offered to be product testers during the development of the bags.

Based on the family’s reviews and first-hand experience, when the bags become widely available in 2021 they will come with clear printed warnings alerting customers not to engage in bag consumption while driving, as the bags have a tendency to impede a driver’s vision. In addition, anyone planning to consume a bag while recreating over open water should don proper flotation in the event of an accidental slip, trip, or fall overboard. The bags will also come with a moist handi-wipe so that users can wipe any residual product off their face before proceeding with other activities.

...And that’s the news from our world!

We are SO looking forward to 2021!!

Happy Holidays

&

Happy New Year!

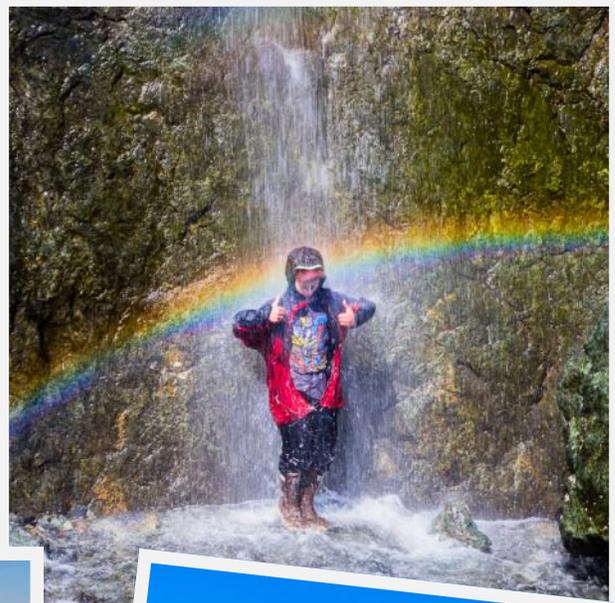
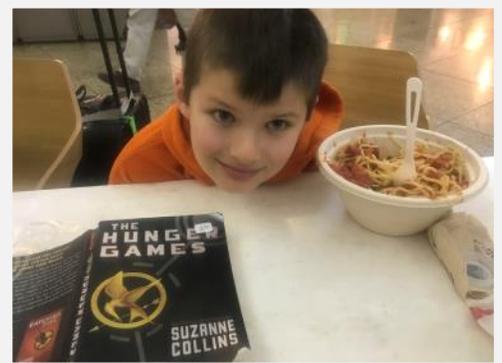
with love from

Janet, Sean, Téa, and Skyler

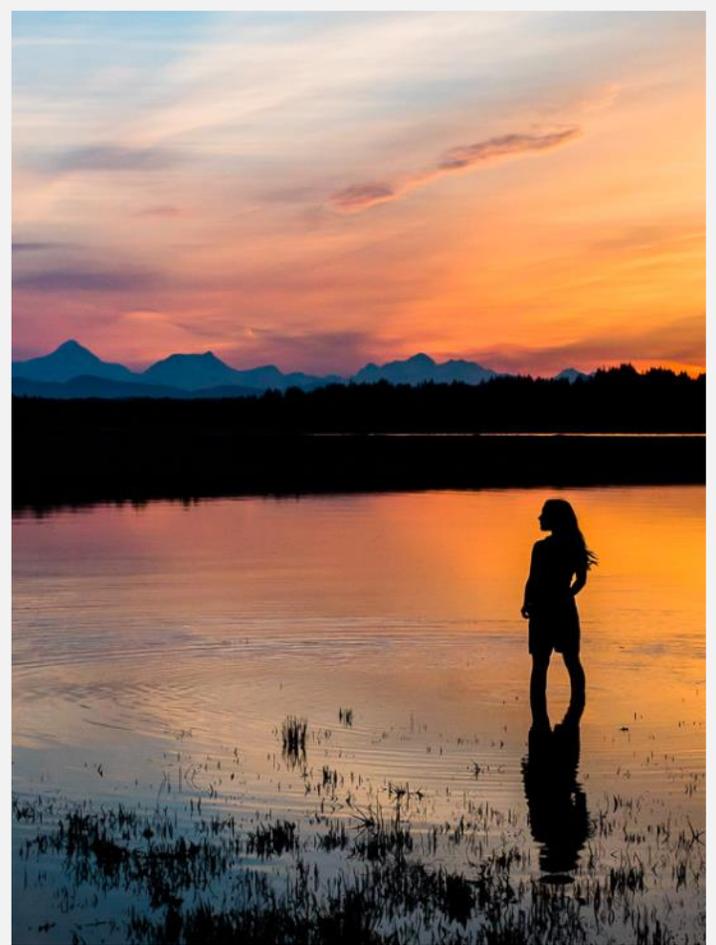




Baja, Mexico - March 2020 (we got home just in time!)







We hope that 2021 brings you peace, health, and many small moments of joy.

