

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.



Young astronauts prepare for first manned flight to Pluto



Following the first ever flyby of Pluto by the New Horizon spacecraft July, NASA nounced it was investing in a long-term program to train the next generation of astronauts for the first manned space flight to the distant planet. By fall, NASA had handpicked a select group of adventurous American youth ages 4 - 10 to begin an intensive multi-year training program. Sibling astronauts-in-training Téa and Skyler Neilson report that they are busy training round-the-clock

for the mission, which will take place in 2032, just in time for Skyler's 21st birthday.



A few weeks into the program, the children's father, Sean Neilson of Gustavus, Alaska, was arrested by NASA security officers after he repeatedly tried to enter the flight simulator and insisted that he was Téa and Skyler's older 'brother', in a desperate attempt to be part of the historic mission. Security officers, tipped off by the man's thinning hair, quickly discovered that





he was not 10 years old, although his antics and maturity level were generally consistent with this age group. As the man was led away in handcuffs, he re-



portedly insisted over and over, "But I have a degree in aerospace engineering!!" The elder Neilson is now being held in a psychiatric facility where he is being further evaluated. Meanwhile, the Neilson children continue to exceed NASA's training goals and are reported to be at the top of their class.

Boy participates in easiest Easter egg hunt ever



As he stuffed his bag with Easter eggs, Skyler Neilson, age 4, wondered why everyone else seemed to be overlooking the obvious. Details on page A-5.

First women graduate elite Army Ranger school



An eight-yearold girl from rura1 Alaska history made this year after graduating from the elite Army Ranger school. Téa Neilson endured months of intense mental and physi-

cal training to become one of only two females to graduate from the prestigious program. When asked how she did it, Neilson shrugged and said, "It was nothing compared to putting up with my younger brother... I learned a long time ago to pace myself through the relentless challenges of being a big sister."

Neilson Ms. received a special award upon graduation that recognized her exceptional ability to run over all types of terrain in footwear ranging from sneakers to rubber rain boots.



2015 Catan Champion crowned

In November, reigning World Catan Champion Sean Neilson lost his crown to his son, Skyler Neilson. Championship organizers say that Skyler is the third member of the



rural Alaskan family to hold the prestigious title since Sean unseated his daughter, Téa, in 2013. "It's some kind of freakish family dynasty", said a competitor from Spain. An anonymous source close to the family says that mom Janet Neilson, although supportive of her family's addiction to the board game, does not personally enjoy playing it. Her family, however, is determined to get her hooked, if for no other reason than to strengthen the family's reputation as Lords of Catan.

"Alaska Bush People" reality TV show contemplates switching to a real Alaska family

Producers of the hit TV show reality "Alaska Bush People" are considering dropping the current family that stars in the show and replacing them with a real Alaska family from Gustavus. Ever since the popular show first aired, its producers have faced fierce criticism that the family portrayed on the show in no way



resembles anyone actually living in Alaska. Bolstering claims that the family was imported to the state for the sole purpose of starring in the "reality" show, several



members of the family were indicted this fall for Permanent Fund Dividend fraud. The last straw for the show's producers, however, appears to have been a recent sighting of the family boarding a Delta Airlines flight in Juneau (in first class, no less!) after the airline began serving the capital city. Says one of the show's producers, "It's clear to us now that the family is not Alaskan because

as any local knows, real Alaskans fly on Alaska Airlines. And — they fly coach! Delta Airlines, while a reputable commercial airline, is for Juneau tourists."



Fans will be pleased to know that the TV show's producers are contemplating replacing the family with a real Alaska family, although it is still possible they will import another set of bozos from down south and continue to call it "reality". Janet and Sean Neilson, along with their children Téa (8) and Skyler (4), report that they were contacted by the show's producers last month. Negotiations have been slow because the Neilsons actually do live in bush Alaska, with no internet access or cell phone service at their home.

Couch diving championships

Final scores and championship highlights on page B-1.



Paris climate talks influenced by 4year-old negotiator



U.S. negotiator Skyler Neilson takes a break, while contemplating the world he will inherit. Although not caught on film, Neilson was later seen throwing a full-blown tantrum, in an effort to convince other delegates that the time to act swiftly on climate change is NOW. The tantrum appears to have been effective, as indicated by significant progress made by the delegates following the outburst. Mr. Neilson modestly admitted that his tantrums are generally effective at exacting results, adding that he is puzzled as to why his parents have, in recent years, tried to encourage him to use his words instead.

Creepy contest – vote now!

Cast your vote today to help us decide who is creepier...the young girl in this photo, or the angel Barbie lurking behind her. Contest details page C-3.



Club Mud opens in Gustavus
Continued on page D-2.



The end of an era: How two formerly ridiculous fashionistas became sophisticated super models, seemingly overnight

Before:







After:





Téa and Skyler Neilson in recent photo shoots for Cosmopolitan and GQ magazines. Details on page E-6.

Inaugural Xtratuf Estates Biathlon















Water sports fans went wild in October when the Neilson family hosted the inaugural Xtratuf Estates Biathlon in Gustavus. The event, which combined driveway surfing and aquatic cycling, drew athletes from around the world to the famously wet Tong Road neighborhood. In a tight race,

siblings Téa and Skyler Neilson tied for first place in the wet and wild competition. The Neilsons plan to expand the race next fall to a full triathlon, however they have not yet announced the third water sport to be added. Inside sources say they have narrowed down the choices to forest snorkeling and meadow kayaking. Stay tuned for details.

...And that's the news from our world!
We hope 2016 proves to be as newsworthy.

Happy Holidays & Happy New Year ~

with love from Janet, Sean, Téa, Skyler & Oliver the wonder cat



In January, we adopted Oliver!

















In September, Sean "retired" from his seasonal job as a National Park Service Ranger in Glacier Bay. Check out his new business at **www.glacierbayphototours.com**!













Deconstruction of our old cabin:





Adding a third bedroom to our house:





