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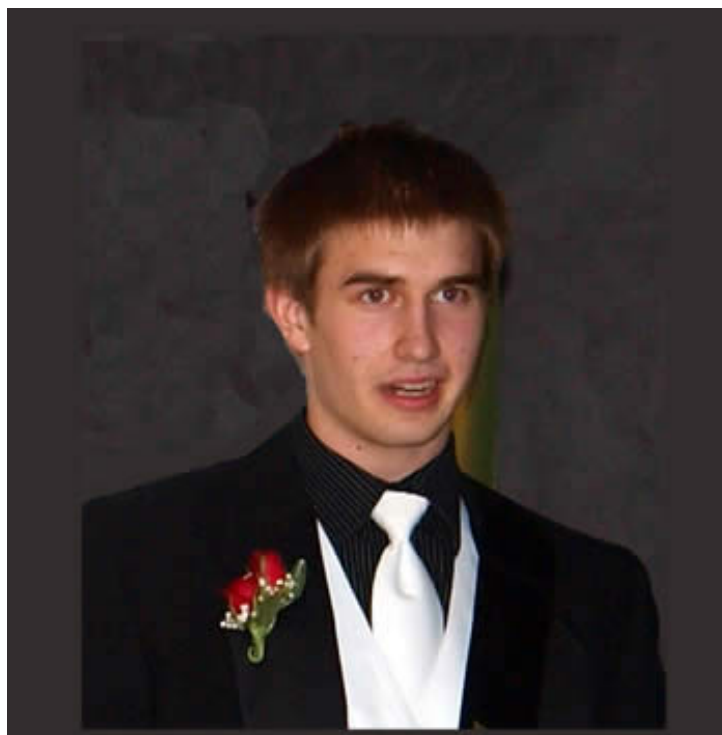
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Griffin Troy Swick- Small town kid ready for big town challenges

by Tamara Blodgett



Griffin was born in Homer, Alaska in February of 1990. The account of a blue moon and a nighttime flight are not exaggerated, just another day in the bush. This was back in the days when our own Dr. Larry Reynolds flew his own patients to Homer for births! The Swick family are long-standing Seldovians. His immediate family has lived here for twenty-five years. Griffin's dad, Alvin, spent each summer from about age eight here in Seldovia (and Kalgin Island respectively), while living the remainder of the year in Washington state. After graduation from high school in Washington, Alvin moved permanently to Seldovia where he has lived and fished since. A big basketball family, Alvin has enjoyed coaching for over ten years. Griffin is one child of four with two grown brothers, Keith and Jeff and one younger sister Xandria, now twelve. Griffin's mom, Roberta, a native Alaskan born in Palmer, is active in volunteer activities and being a mom, she also knits up a storm when winter enshrouds our little town and always has a hot meal waiting for the "menfolk" upon their return from a hunt!

The family travels a six-hour journey by boat each summer to their second home (cabin) on Kalgin Island to work a few days each week set net fishing. Both Roberta's family and Alvin's have owned property (independently) there since before 1960. The Swick family feels their summertime existence on the island is a way of life that's precious to them and they feel fortunate to have it. Griffin is a third generation fisherman on the island along with a slew of family that congregates there each summer. The tranquility cannot be beat with a simplified rural lifestyle without electricity and luxury amenities. Each other and hard work maintains the "glue" of this unique work ethic that the family wouldn't trade for anything. Both Griffin's parents have grown up on the island together and have known each other since they were small. They're pleased to have their children experience those same memories. Wildlife is abundant with moose, beaver, fox and ermine in attendance (and plenty of fish, of course!). Luckily, there are no bear to worry about...with only mosquitoes and horseflies the biggest natural pests to ward off. Family basketball games and hikes are a regular activity. Griffin also enjoys reading during his downtime on the island when the pressure of school and sports do not infringe on a pursuit the whole family enjoys.

Griffin enjoys his Seldovia time to the fullest with hunting, snow machining, hiking, camping, 4-wheeling and hanging out with friends at Sandy and Outside Beaches'. Red Mountain is also a favorite. He likes Alaska and wants to make it his home in the future. He hopes to continue to fish at Kalgin Island during the summers to save money during his tenure at University of Alaska Fairbanks, where he was awarded a four-year tuition scholarship. Griffin leaves for school in the beginning of September where he is looking

How has living in Seldovia affected you?

It's made me see things from a different viewpoint then people from out-of-town.

What is your favorite memory of living here?

Being able to go wherever I want, having that freedom to not worry about being safe.

What was your favorite subject?

Shop Class, specifically carpentry and mechanical.

Favorite sport/hobby?

Basketball of course, but I always wanted to play football.

What will you miss most?

Probably the freedom to walk to where I want to go, the convenience to easily go where I want to.

What are your plans for the future?

After college, I'd like to get a job on the North Slope (processing technician).

What are you most grateful for?

Everybody in the town, "...putting up with me," through all the years.

Who was an important influence for you?

Russ Radliff has been around since my freshman year and was a big influence. So was my dad through the junior high years.

Favorite band/song?

Too many to mention!

Catchphrase?

"Never take life seriously, you never get out alive anyway."

Final words?

forward to meeting new people and experiencing new things.

See ya in a couple of years!









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