

Iliamna Residents Report Seeing 'Bigfoot'

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flicts legis- le the ques- state should e of selling more ex- from Newhalen — about five miles from Iliamna. Additional reports of the large, shaggy creature were turned in Jan. 8 by Federal Aviation Administra- tion coordinator Jim Coffee and other residents.

Postmistress Myrtle Anelton says her children told her a big foot ran off with some sheets hanging on her clothes line. She did not see the creature, but reports footprints in the snow near the missing wash. She added she saw a group of three bigfoots 18 years ago and de- scribes them as looking like "people with hair."

On Jan. 9, a woman reported seeing one of the creatures, known locally as "big man," through her window.

Coffee was driving on a snowy, icy road when he spotted the bigfoot, and swerved as he slammed on the brakes. He says the creature was about eight feet tall and loping along on two legs. He says it definitely was not a moose.

Coffee fired a few shots to scare off the creature. One vil- lage resident expressed fears that the shots may prompt the creature to return with thoughts of vengeance. Village dogs reportedly have been barking more than usual since the sightings began.

Footprints remained in the snow from the recent sightings for nearly a week. They were nearly two feet long and measured one foot across the ball of the foot. The heels were about five inches wide.

Area residents say the sight- ings involved two different creatures. The larger "big man" was said to have traveled along the road leading to the airport. A smaller one trav- eling on the other side of that road was credited with tearing down Mrs. Anelton's laundry.

Both left tracks — but the distance between the footprints ranged from four to eight feet.

Until the night of Jan. 8, only Native residents had seen the creature. Coffee is the first white resident in the area to have reported a sighting.

Native observers of bigfoot are reluctant to talk about their experiences.

"It's sort of a taboo among them," said one young woman of her elders. "They don't even talk about it among themselves much."

The creature is theorized by believers to be an evolutionary freak who lives as a nomad, eats only fish and vegetables and does not want to harm people. Area residents say the creature appears when warm weather disrupts its hiberna- tion. Temperatures last week were reported in the 40s.


Many area residents say they believe in the creature's exis- tence. One woman said if she saw one, "I'd be scared, but I wouldn't shoot, that's for sure. That would be much too vio- lent."

Linda Johnson of Iliamna says they usually travel in pairs, adding, "They have fam- ilies just like us. They're not too smart like people, but they know what is going on. They One Newhalen resident re- ferred all questions to the FAA flight center, saying, "They're the ones who saw it." But he added, "Don't let them be hunted and hounded. They live here too."

Iliamna has other mysterious legends, including the Iliamna Lake monster and a group of little people who live under- ground and can only be seen by children. The lake monster is said to have turned over boats.

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Sitka Hospital

On Friday, Dorinda Ray and baby boy Ray were admitted at Sitka Community Hospital. Elizabeth and baby daughter Cherie Simpson were discharged. On Saturday, Esther Ricaporte was discharged, and on Sunday Rose Patterson was discharged.

Ambulance

At 1:19 p.m. Sunday transported patient from Eagle Air to Mt. Edgcombe hospital.
At 1:51 p.m. Sunday transported three Angoon residents from Eagle Air to Mt. Edgcombe hospital.
At 11:35 p.m. Sunday transported patient from 521 DeGroat to Mt. Edgcombe.

Sitka Weather

The Sitka Observatory reported that yesterday's high was 39 degrees. Sitka had an overnight low of 27 degrees which remained through 8 a.m. this morning. At 8 a.m. this morning, the barometric reading was recorded at 29.54 and it was reported that there was no precipitation during the day. Sunrise was at 9:29 and sunset will be at 4:54 p.m.



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