



Seldovia Gazette

Serving Seldovia, Alaska and Kachemak Bay southeast

Seldovia, AK

32 °F / 0 °C

Clear

at 10:53 AM



[Click for Forecast](#)

Thursday, Oct. 13, 2005

Just another day in paradis

A truly unique shopping experience - Gifts for that special person! Friendly - Affordable

HERRING BAY MERCANTILE

<http://www.herringbaymercantile.com>

Located in beautiful downtown Seldovia - 275 Main St.



[Local News](#)

[Calendar](#)

[Opinions](#)

[Spotlight](#)

[School](#)

[Classifieds](#)

[Archives](#)

[Seldovia.com](#)

[Gazette Services](#)

[Current Spotlight](#) | [Spotlight Archives](#)

Paul O'Leary - Youth of the Year

by Charity Winters



For 37 years, the Seldovia Chamber of Commerce has sought to honor one young person that has served his or her community in an outstanding way. Each year, a ballot box is placed at the post office, inviting citizens to nominate whom they consider exceptional citizens. The Chamber of Commerce then votes to decide which of the nominees will receive the award. This year, Paul O'Leary was chosen for the 2005 Youth of the Year award.

Paul has lived in Seldovia for the past 5 years and is now a senior at Susan B. English. His growing participation in the life and activity of Seldovia has earned him recognition for his hard work. Paul earned his EMT 1 last year and he has been volunteering at the Seldovia Fire Department since May 2005. Paul says he tries to make as many calls as he can and has made roughly 30 calls since he joined. He enjoys his time as an EMT and tries to attend their monthly training sessions. He would like to be more heavily involved once he turns 18 and can become a member of the EMS board.

Paul is also very involved at the Susan B. English School. He is the senior class president this year, making him partly responsible for the annual meetings and funds that keep school activities going. He volunteers every day in the cafeteria as the kitchen aide helping to prepare, serve and clean up lunch. He also volunteers as a lifeguard for lap swims. He attends any Booster Club events to help raise support for sports events. And, last, but not least, Paul is the token senior wrestler for this year's high school wrestling team.

Phew! Paul is a busy young man! But his face lights up with excitement when he talks about his many responsibilities - especially working on the EMS force. After high school, Paul plans to join the Coast Guard and work on higher education in Emergency

Response and Firefighting. “I want to be someone who makes a difference,” Paul says. “I want people to say, ‘Hey, he did that.’” He is apprehensive about being able to “make it” in the real world. He often wonders, “Where am I going to find myself in a year?” But with Paul’s many achievements here in this small town, it is hard to imagine that he won’t find success out in the rest of the world as well.

Paul is honored that he received the award this year. “I felt like, ‘Oh, cool, I guess people like me!’”, he said. But as far as feeling as though he deserved the award...”I was just doing what I like to do,” was all he had to say.

Copyright © 2005 Seldovia.com, Inc. and Seldovia Gazette. All rights reserved. The Seldovia Gazette is published weekly by Seldovia.com, Inc. Contents of this publication may not be used or reproduced, in whole or in part, in any form or manner without the express written permission of Seldovia.com, Inc. [Click here for additional details.](#)