



Seldovia Gazette

Serving Seldovia, Alaska and Kachemak Bay southeast

Seldovia, AK

23 °F / -5 °C

Light Snow
at 4:53 PM

[Click for Forecast](#)

Thursday, Jan. 19, 2006

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](#)

Joy Smith, Ready to Succeed

by Charity Winters



Joy Smith

Joy Smith is almost ready to finish up her high school career – with flying colors, I might add. For the past four years, Joy has demonstrated to her school and her community that she is an intelligent individual who is hard-working, responsible and...busy!

This 17 year-old senior has definitely made her mark at Susan B. English. Joy loves to learn and her 4.0 GPA and position on the honor roll are proof of that. She earned herself the Alaska Scholar award (awarded to seniors in the top 10% of their class) and is ready to head

love to do it” and she wants to have a part in that. She added that her parents have been her biggest encouragement throughout her life. “Schoolwork comes first!” she says with a grin.

But Joy doesn’t spend all of her time with her nose to the books. Joy has played for the volleyball team since freshman year. Since sophomore year she has earned herself a position on the ASAA All-Academic team due to her excellent GPA. She also volunteers at the school library. Since there is no librarian, she does her best to fill in responsibilities such as

off to UAA next fall. She plans to pursue a major in education with a possible minor in English or history. As you can see, Joy is quite ambitious and plans to make the most of her time at college. And if her time here in Seldovia is any indication, you can be sure that Joy will certainly be doing just that.

Joy is quick to use her gift of learning to help others – which may be why teaching is the path she has chosen. Fellow students often come to her for help – “Sometimes on classes I’m not even taking!” Joy adds. She also spent some of last summer tutoring an elementary student. Joy said that her parents have played a large part in her choice to pursue teaching. Both Hugh and Sally Smith are educators and they homeschooled Joy through the 8th grade. Joy was very grateful for the experience and still takes correspondence courses at home to round out her education. Joy replies that “I just see how much they

checking books in and out and re-shelving and even has scheduled class times for the K-3 and 4-6 classes. Joy also spends a lot of her time managing her pet-sitting business. To serve the community, Joy provides free pet care for people involved in medical emergencies. She also writes for the Seldovia Gazette as the school reporter.

Even though she sounds like she can’t wait to get involved at college, Joy is going to miss her hometown without a doubt. “It’s like one big family,” she explains. She tells about how much people look out for her when her parents are out of town. “About 5-6 cars will drive by and I’ll get several phone calls. I usually get invited over to eat some sort of casserole and if I say no, the casserole will appear on the doorstep eventually.” Joy will also miss her parents and her dogs, Harry and Ebony, and her rabbit, Davy Crockett. When asked what she fears most about next year, “I try not to think about it. Right now I’m just trying to get through high school. I’ll wait until the summer to have an anxiety attack,” she says with a smile.