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### Rachel Payton - Graduating Senior with a long Seldovia History !

by Mary Glover



Rachel Payton was born eighteen years ago on February 6th in Homer, Alaska. She is the daughter of Marcia Patrick and Jim Payton. She has three brothers and no sisters! Rachel said with a big smile and a glimmer in her eyes, "It's hard....it made me tough!" (Brother Bill is 21, brother Jimmy Jr. is 20, and brother Stephen is 16.) Rachel's mom is Marcia who is in charge of Senior Meals and Housing for the Seldovia Village Tribe (SVT). Her stepfather is Josh Patrick works for the Seldovia Fuel and Hardware Store. Brother Stephen is also undergoing an independent studies program for his schooling, brother Bill is in college at Sheldon Jackson in Sitka, and brother Jimmy is working here in Seldovia on the fuel tank farm project.

Having lived in Seldovia her entire life, Rachel states, "I just love how beautiful it is here." When her brother Bill was born, her dad worked at a Seldovia cannery. Her dad now lives in Anchorage. Rachel attended SBE School from Kindergarten

Rachel has been involved with the SEE Project Program, a SVT sponsored program this past year. She is an assistant cook at the Senior Meals program, another SVT sponsored program. She said, "I just love to be around the older generation."

This past Christmas, Rachel and her brothers went to Idaho to visit her grandmother (Grandma Kay) whom she had not seen since she was three years old. Her Idaho grandfather, Ralph Payton, has passed on.

All of us here in Seldovia know her other set of grandparents, Nancy and Norman Opheim. Rachel also has an uncle, Michael Opheim, who also lives in Seldovia.

Rachel says that she has been very busy this past year and has not had much time for anything but work and her independent studies. She also is currently working for the Boys & Girls Club as a junior staff employee.

through the 10th grade. Since the 10th grade, she has completed an independent study program and has studied subjects such as sociology, accounting and psychology (in addition to the required subjects of math, history and English). This program has allowed her to graduate from high school this year. Her plans for the future include working to earn enough money and then to be accepted to a veterinary technical school. She wants to work with and treat animals.

Rachel, we sincerely wish you much happiness and success in your future endeavors.



Rachel making popcorn at the Boys & Girls Club on 5/3/07



Rachel's mom, Marcia



**Josh Patrick**



Rachel's father when Rachel was a little girl.



Marcia and Josh



Rachel with her brothers, Prom 2007



Prom 2004



Left to right, Stephen, Dad Jim, Rachel, Grandma Kay, Jimmy, Bill



Grandma Kay, Rachel and Jimmy



Grandmother Nancy Opheim

## Nancy Opheim



Great Grandmother Treva Payton and Grandfather Ralph Payton



Grandfather Norman Opheim



**Uncle Michael Opheim**



Rachel and Stephanie at the Prom 2007

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