



# Seldovia Gazette

Serving Seldovia, Alaska and Kachemak Bay southeast

Seldovia, AK

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Clear

at 5:53 PM



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Thursday, June 14, 2007

Just another day in paradise

Vol. 3, No. 24, June 14, 2007

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## Opinions



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**PhotoStory**  
Susan B English  
Graduation  
May 24, 2007



**PhotoStory**  
2007 Craft  
Invitational Chainsaw  
Carving Competition  
May 25-28, 2007

Coming to the Festival?  
[Click Here](#)



Get ready for another thrilling 2 days of music. The Seldovia Summer Solstice Music Festival is almost

here.

June 22-23

[website for more information](#)



Do you need a room during the 4th of July?

The M/V Tustumena is a fun option!

You can book a berth on both July 3rd and July 4th nights!

Call the City Office at 234-7643 to make your reservation.

Don't wait, space is limited!

## Marketplace



**Jenny Chissus**  
234-8000

Your Seldovia Connection

[www.seldoviaproperty.com](http://www.seldoviaproperty.com)  
RE/MAX of Homer



Come In,  
Browse,  
Have Fun!

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Seldovia, AK

Support the  
Seldovia Sea Otter  
Booster Club  
Help keep sports and  
academic travel programs  
alive for our school!



Seldovia Boat Slips  
for Rent

The Seldovia harbor has 32  
foot and 42 foot slips for  
rent. Call for details:

Harbor Master  
(907) 234-7886

City Office (907) 234-7643

## Top Stories

### School

▶ [Susan B English School by school reporter Katie O'Leary - Click here](#)



### Notices & Newsletters

▶ [The Seldovia Visitor 2007, Seldovia Chamber of Commerce. Click here to download PDF \(6mb\)](#)

▶ [Comprehensive Plan Public Final August 10, 2005 \(pdf\)](#)

▶ [Amended FY05 Seldovia City Budget 7-8-2005 \(pdf\)](#)

▶ [Boys and Girls Club Calendar](#)

### Archives

#### 2007 Archives

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▶ [Seldovia Walking May - 8-1/2 x 11 pdf](#)

▶ [Seldovia Summer Visitor Newspaper 2007](#)

#### 2007 PhotoStories

▶ [Craft Invitational Chainsaw Carving Contest - May](#)

▶ [SBE Graduation - May](#)

▶ [Seldovia Lodge Fire](#)

▶ [SBE Prom - "Casino Royale 007"](#)

▶ [SBE Last Home](#)

[Basketball Game of the Season](#)

#### 2006 Archives

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## City Council Reduces Mil Rate

by *Tamara Blodgett*

### *Our representatives working for us...!*

Seldovia's City Council Membership labored tirelessly during workshops to establish the current mil rate for this year. As all were aware, there has been a significant increase in property taxes realized in our most current assessment. However long overdue it was to update our property values and force parcels on the tax roll that had been overlooked, it was no consolation to those that saw huge increases in their valuation.

*Slight increase expected...*

All the updated valuations in combination with tax compliance of additional structures have meant increased revenue for the City. Even with the adoption by Council of a mil rate down from 7.25 to 4.30 (*a huge drop of 2.95*) will translate into only a *small* increase for the taxpayer while the City still *gains* additional revenue from the updated tax assessment. The Borough portion of the tax has also been *dropped* from 6.60 to 5.58 (a decrease of **1.02**). The overall combined reduction of City and Borough mil rate tax is **3.97!** It was at a combined of 13.85 and is now at **9.88**. This is a 39.5% reduction in overall tax!

*What does this mean for the Seldovia taxpayer...?*

This means that for every 100K of assessed value it will be \$430 for City and \$558 for Borough. Combine those two and you have \$998 combined tax per 100K of assessed value. That would put a home assessed at 200K at roughly \$2000 in property tax. The old mil rate for that same amount would have been roughly \$2800! An effective reduction of almost 40%! Thanks Council for working hard for fiscal savings on our behalf.

*[ Editors Note: details received from the Borough on Friday indicated that there is a problem with Seldovia mil rate as passed. A Special Council meeting will be called and the mil rate will be corrected. We will post the correction in the paper as soon as it has been finalized.]*

## City Council Meeting - June 13

by *Tamara Blodgett*

The Seldovia City Council convened together to include the following members present: Keith Gain (presiding), Tom Glover, Tom Keesecker, Walter McInnes, Allison Miller and Gerry Patrick. Acting City Manager and City Clerk Ronda Haynes took minutes.

The *amended* approved agenda was passed thereby moving line item L-1 to position M-4.

### Public Presentation for Items not on Agenda

Michael L. Foster Representative Loren Leman spoke about the recent resolution (on June 4th) by Council to not seek another contract with Foster. Leman emphasized that Foster has greatly appreciated the work that the City has given Foster in the past and is "troubled" that the relationship has ended. Council had cited errors/delays/and omissions as the reason for the non-

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| <a href="#">▶ Seldovia Walking Map - 8-1/2 x 11 pdf</a>                              |
| <a href="#">▶ Seldovia Summer Visitor Newspaper 2006</a>                             |
| <b>2006 PhotoStories</b>   |
| <a href="#">▶ SBE Play - December</a>  |
| <a href="#">▶ Halloween Carnival</a>   |
| <a href="#">▶ Aleutian's Tusty Trip - July 25 - Part 3</a>                           |
| <a href="#">▶ Aleutian's Tusty Trip - July 25 - Part 2</a>                           |
| <a href="#">▶ Aleutian's Tusty Trip - July 25 - Part 1</a>                           |
| <a href="#">▶ July 4 Festival</a>  |
| <a href="#">▶ Summer Solstice Music Festival - June</a>                              |
| <a href="#">▶ CofC Chainsaw Carving Contest - May</a>                                |
| <a href="#">▶ SBE Graduation - May</a>   |
| <a href="#">▶ SBE Spring Concert - May</a>   |
| <a href="#">▶ SBE School Play - May</a>  |
| <a href="#">▶ SBE Science Fair - May</a>   |
| <a href="#">▶ Prom - May</a>   |
| <a href="#">▶ SBE Basketball - Feb.</a>  |
| <a href="#">▶ SBE Basketball - Feb.</a>  |
| <a href="#">▶ SBE Basketball - Jan.</a>  |
| <b>2005 Archives</b>   |
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| <b>2005 PhotoStories</b>   |
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| <b>Photo Archives</b>  |
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|  |
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|  |

renewal. Leman proposed that Council rectify this by giving Foster a three-month, pro-bono trial period in which Council will make a clear, prioritized list of the most urgent needs in regard to the Village Safe Water Act Grant. In this way, Leman felt confident that Foster could advance the City's interests. Furthermore, as seen in Glenallen, Foster was their (Glenallens') strongest advocate, taking their needs to the "government's office" to satisfy funding for crucial infrastructure.

Councilman Gain thanked Leman for his presence and thoughts while stating that further discussion would have to take place at another time (Public presentation is not interactive). In addition, Gain noted that it is the precedence of this Council for matters on the agenda to be discussed and nothing additional.

**Committee and Advisory Board Reports**

**SOS** had a recent meeting where financial matters were addressed and updated with the covering of the boom completed in addition to work on the skiff.

**Fish and Game** had nothing to report at this time.

**Planning & Zoning Commission** continues to work toward the completion of the comprehensive plan. At the Borough level there were 22 re-plats considered, the renaming of a street, additional review of Titles 14&20, and resolution support for the KPB Coastal Plan among other items.

**Old Business**

**Ordinance 07-03, Approaching Funds and setting the Fee Schedule for the FY08 Fiscal Year**

The changes for the schedule are as follows: 405.001 to 30K, 405.002 to 138K, and 958.000 to 26K. Additions for Sundry Fee Schedule include a Port Fee for all disembarking passengers of \$3.50 for all commercial vessels providing transportation. A Transient Moorage day use fee of \$5 will be assessed for all vessels in the small boat harbor. This fee will be \$10 on Independence Day. Reference to the first four hours of moorage being free has now been omitted.

*Action:* Passed unanimously.

**Dam Inspection Award**

Quotes were received from Shannon & Wilson (\$8,805), PND Engineers (\$6,985.00), and Michael L Foster & Assoc. (\$15,270) for the dam inspection as compared to the quote the City received in 2001 for \$2,900. City Clerk Haynes advised to go with the lowest bid. After Council discussion it was determined that a motion be made to accept the PND bid pending DEC approval.

*Action:* Passed unanimously.

**Ordinance 07-04, Amending Section 2.52 of the Seldovia Municipal Codes, Personnel Management**

This agenda item will be addressed at the next regular meeting.

*Action:* N/A

**New Business**



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### Corrections

None this week

## Resolution 07-17, Setting the FY08 Mil Rate

Through protracted Council discussion, a significant reduction from the current mil rate was adopted. This reduction is most significant at the City level, from 7.25 in 2006 to the newly adopted 4.30 for 2007. The mil rate at the Borough level has also been reduced from 6.60 to 5.58, an overall reduction of 1.02. Please read related article for a full explanation of what this means to you, the taxpayer.

A member of the Public, Paulie Carluccio, wished to commend the Council Members on their diligence on behalf of the community for their combined efforts of fiscal responsibility.

*Action:* Passed unanimously.

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## Resolution 07-16, Sole Source Award for Salmon Smolt Stocking

These grant monies from the Alaska Department of Commerce and Economic Development are for the stocking of Coho smolt at the head of the Seldovia Slough. Normally, three quotes are required for this type of project, but since there is only one source available, a Resolution is required for a sole source award.

*Action:* Passed unanimously.

## Proposal for business (executive session)

### City Manager Position (executive session)

Next Regular Meeting: June 27th, 2007

Adjournment: Time elapsed: 33 minutes plus Executive Sessions

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## EMS & Fire Elects Officers *by Tamara Blodgett*

### *Committing for another two years...*

The all-volunteer EMS Service and Fire Department got together for a general meeting of adherence with the by-laws to vote for the next, two-year terms for a variety of positions. For the first time ever, the roles of Fire Chief and EMS Assistant Chief will be held dually. Co-Fire Chiefs' Mike Driscoll and Tim O'Leary were elected to this new dual role, and Alix Chartier and Mary Jo Stanley for the Co-EMS Assistant Chief(s). Re-elected for another two-year term is EMS Chief Lisa O'Leary, who brings 15 years EMS experience to this role. Another veteran that is worth mentioning is Darlene Crawford, re-elected for Dispatch Chief. Darlene is a tireless volunteer that has put in many dispatch hours (sometimes with only one other person on the roster). Re-elected for the Boards of Directors were Liza Bieri, Helen Josefsen, and new member Kurt Reynertson.



Mike Driscoll  
- Co-Fire Chief



Tim O'Leary  
- Co-Fire Chief



Lisa O'Leary  
- EMS Chief



Darlene Crawford  
- Dispatch Chief



Mary Jo Stanley  
- Co-EMS Asst. Chief



Alix Chartier  
- Co-EMS Asst. Chief



Liza Bieri  
- Board of Directors



Helen Josefsen  
- Board of Directors



Kurt Reynertson  
- Board of Directors



Elaine Giles  
-"Forever" Board of Directors

The elected results will come before the City Council for their review and Council approval. Once reviewed, the results will be finalized.

*A local treasure gets a permanent nod...*

Wonderful, life-long volunteer Elaine Giles sat in the seat of honor to receive a certificate promoting her to 'forever' Board of Director Member status after her (many) years of dedicated service to the EMS & Fire Departments. There sat a scrumptious cake decorated with silver leaves and crimson roses in her honor. It is people like Ms. Giles that are the lifeblood of a community like Seldovia, and we are *so thankful* to have had her assistance all these years. You can catch Elaine at the front door on the 4th at the Fireman's Pancake Breakfast. Be sure to tip your hat to this classy lady and mentor to us all.

*Come one, come all...*

The volunteer EMS Service and Fire Department are always looking for volunteers for Fire Fighting, trained EMS Personnel, and able Dispatch Operators. Remember that Firefighters save our homes, EMS saves our lives, and Dispatch is the communicator for them to do so. Be a part of the action and protection of Seldovia!

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## Silver Salmon Smolt Stocking

The 2nd annual stocking of 50,000 Coho Salmon (silver salmon) took place at the Fish Creek Reservoir this week. Look for them to return in 1 to 3 years!






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## Special Notices

### *The Wildest Magic in Alaska*

**Coming to Seldovia, Saturday, June 16th at 7 PM** (note date change) in the school commons \$2 for Adults, \$1 for students.

Special FREE Saturday workshop at Boys & Girls Club - 11 AM to 3 PM

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### *Boys & Girls Club Update*

The Seldovia Boys & Girls Club will be starting Karate Lessons today and Guitar Lessons on Wednesday. We have a local summer resident – Rob Rurka – as our instructor. He will be offering karate three days a week, Monday/Wednesday/Friday, from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. and guitar lessons on Wednesday afternoon.

The karate lessons cost \$50 a month, and the guitar classes will be free thanks to the generous donations of Jenny Chissus and her realty clients.

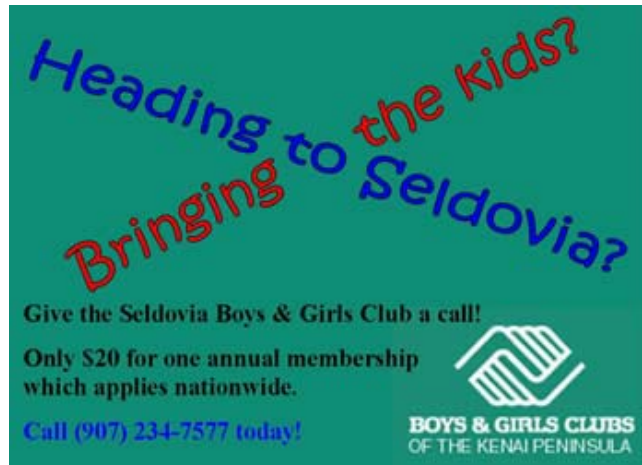
Karate is for children (entering 4th grade) through adults. Guitar is available for all ages, children through adults. We have two guitars at the Clubhouse, so we are looking for others if you have any we could borrow this summer.

Please feel free to give me a call if you have any more questions about these lessons. There will be a karate informational meeting this evening at 5:30 at the B&G. I hope to see you there!

The Clubhouse will be open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 1-6 p.m. Pottery will still run on Mondays from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. and Teen Open Gym will happen on Tuesday nights from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Teens can come to the Club one extra time with the addition of a Teen Club night on Saturdays from 9:00 – 11:00 p.m., and of course they can still attend the Seldovia Village Tribe's Teen Night on Fridays from 9:00 – midnight.

#### Regular Club Schedule

- Pottery: Mondays from 3:15 - 5:00 p.m.
- Clubhouse: Tuesdays - Saturdays from 1:00 - 6:00 p.m.
- Teen Open Gym: Tuesdays from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
- Teen Club night: Saturdays 9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.
- Teen Night by SVT Prevention Program: Fridays 9:00 p.m. - midnight



Any questions, contact: Laurel A. Hilts, Unit Director Seldovia  
234-7577 office; 234-2004 fax & kid phone during Clubhouse hours  
lhilts@positiveplaceforkids.com

#### Tidbits . . .

**I know it's that time of year, but the warm weather this week has really kicked the local plants into a serious growth spurt!**



### City Manager's Corner

by Kurt Reynertson

>> **No Reports will be available until a new City Manager is hired** <<

### Seldovia Police Report

by A.W. Anderson, Seldovia PD

>> **Repeat Story** <<

A subpoena was served on a lady regarding an upcoming trial for a man on DWI charges resulting from the operation of a vessel while intoxicated. The trial is now postponed until July.

Police were notified of damage to a window at a local residence which is occupied only in the summertime. Investigation revealed entry had been made through a window in the lower level of the residence and the window pane had been broken. It is undetermined what all was taken in the burglary but it is known that a case of Canadian Mist Whiskey, 12 bottles, 1.75 liter in plastic bottles, and 8-9 bottles of Yellow Tail Wine were taken. When the owner's do arrive they will most likely find other items missing. The crime could have occurred anytime during the winter months. Anyone having any information regarding this burglary, or anyone having observed numerous bottles of the whiskey or wine with these brand names, is asked to contact your Police Department.

Police received a call from a lady who reported she and her two children were fishing, while tied to a buoy in front of their cabin in Kasitsna Bay, when a white 24'- 26' boat came straight at them at high speed and veered off within 30' of their 12' row boat. The wake created nearly swamped the row boat and badly frightened the lady and her children. An investigation into who was responsible for the act failed to reveal those responsible. Anyone having any information is requested to contact the Seldovia Police Department at 234-7640. The incident occurred on Sunday, 5/28/07, between the hours of 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. in the area of McDonald Spit.

An immature eagle was reported to have been on the airplane float in the Seldovia Harbor for over 24 hours and was not leaving when approached. Police caught the eagle and shipped it to the Alaska Marine Wildlife Refuge in Homer who, in turn, shipped the bird to Anchorage for treatment. There were no signs of injury but the bird was in need of medical assistance. In checking on the condition of the bird the Police were told the bird will be again released into the wild in a short time and is improving quickly as a result of medical

treatment.

A cell phone that was found at the Outside Beach has been returned to the owner. There was enough battery left to determine the owner of the phone.

Police received a complaint regarding the theft of 4 tire rims that were taken off private property. The theft is under investigation at this time.

A local resident reported a package she had ordered was stolen out of the Smokey Bay Airlines office at the Seldovia Airport. The package was valued at \$20.00.

Police called a property owner in Anchorage after a complaint that trash and garbage was strewn around her property which is located on the South side of Seldovia Bay. The owner told the Officer she is planning a trip very soon to her cabin and will be cleaning up the debris.

A local man was contacted after a complaint was received that he cursed a lady at a local business and later left, what could be construed as, a threatening message on her home telephone recorder. The man, when contacted, told the Police he was being treated unfairly by the lady when he was limited to the amount of product he could purchase at the business. He felt she treated him unfairly. The man was informed that threats and intimidation will only serve to cause him a problem and that further negative contact of this nature will result in a Court proceeding.

A Dynatel 2M meter was misplaced by an ACS employee when it was left on the airplane when he flew to Seldovia. Because of its value, and the ACS employs possible need for it, the Officer located the employ and returned the meter.

Police were asked to proctor tests for the volunteers who are taking their EMT II and EMT III tests. These EMT volunteers and the volunteer Fire Fighters spend countless hours in training and practical exercises to insure the citizens of Seldovia have the best response team possible. While most of us are sleeping these dedicated individuals often spend hours in the middle of the night assisting others. They do this as a service to the community. They do not get compensated for their responses but continue to stand ready to respond 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Due to the criteria that is mandated by State Law many hours of training is necessary. The Emergency Dispatchers, who also give of themselves to keep the responding personnel informed and assist them with logistics, should also be recognized for their outstanding service. We often take for granted the services the Fire Department offer but to have such a dedicated group of qualified volunteers in such a small City as Seldovia is indeed bordering on miraculous. Take the time to thank an EMT, Firefighter or Dispatcher when you see them. If you have ever had need of their services you, too, know how invaluable they are.

A report of tin blowing around at the Seldovia Lodge site, creating a hazard to the public, was received and the owner of the property was notified. He told the Police he was working with the insurance company and was hopefully going to get the property released within a week and the hazard would be cleaned up. In fact the clean up has begun and will continue until it is no longer a hazard to the citizens.

Police responded and assisted a local contractor when he was dynamiting rock in the rock pit off Frank Raby Drive. The shot was completed without complications.

An early morning report of a roll over accident on Lund Street resulted in an

investigation wherein a teenager was arrested and charged with DUI and Minor Consuming Alcohol. A citation for expired registration on the vehicle was also given to the subject. At arraignment the teen pled guilty to DUI and Minor Consuming charges and received a total of \$2330.00 in fines, must pay fees associated with Alcohol Screening, received 72 consecutive hours of jail time, a license revocation of 90 days and probation until 21 years of age. A fine of \$100.00 is also levied for the expired registration on the vehicle.

A visiting pilot contacted the Police Department and reported that during the nights of either 6/2 or 6/3 someone emptied his aircraft, a Cessna 180, of its gasoline. He estimated he had between 25 and 30 gallons of gas taken. Had he not checked his gauges he could possibly have taken off and found he had no more gasoline. This type of theft can be charged under the Federal Statutes. If injury or death had occurred as a result of the theft the person committing the crime can be held responsible and charged accordingly.

Two vehicles parked near a hanger at the Seldovia Airport were also siphoned and the victim estimates approximately \$120.00 worth of gasoline taken. This theft occurred approximately 2-3 weeks ago.

Police were called to assist a motorist on two separate occasions after the keys were inadvertently locked in the vehicle. On both occasions entry was made into the vehicle.

The boom box in a vehicle being played very loud during late night hours was reported and the owner of the vehicle was contacted. It is unlawful to disturb others late at night without a justifiable reason. The subject told the Officer he would keep the music down after 10:00 p.m..

City Maintenance personnel reported damage to the elevator door in the Library building after someone forced it open. The public should be aware that a hazard exists now when opening the door to access the elevator.

Police assisted a local contractor in the moving of a building on English Drive to property across from the school shop. The move was made without damage to the building or adjacent properties.

Two separate reports of persons feeding bears were taken by Police. On one occasion two people were observed feeding a bear fish eggs out of their hands, in the vicinity of 2.5 mile, Jakolof Bay Road but they could not be identified by the Complainant. On the second occasion a different Complainant did recognize the people feeding a sow bear that had three cubs. When questioned regarding the incident, the suspect admitted to giving the bear some chewing gum. He was informed that feeding the bears is illegal and it is very dangerous.

Further investigation into the feeding of bears has revealed a bigger problem than was known. Police have been given information that many people, at present four separate reports, have been received regarding people feeding bears and one person is said to be filming the activity. It is well known that bears return for more food from the food source so since it is people who are feeding the bears they will expect to always be fed when they encounter people. The next person who encounters the hand fed bear may be injured or killed as a result of the bear's expectations of being fed. Bears have to be destroyed when they become a threat and these people feeding them need to be held responsible. Ask any State Park Official and they will tell you the bears learn quickly and become a problem in a very short time. The younger the bear the quicker they become accustomed to being hand fed. Hopefully this foolish practice will stop. The Police will hold the person feeding the bears responsible, and ask that they explain their activities to the Judge, so report your observations and let's put a stop to this before someone is badly mauled or killed.

Reports are being received regarding people snagging King Salmon in the Seldovia Slough. If you witness someone snagging, and want something done about it, call 235-8239 and tell the Alaska State Trooper Dispatcher what is going on. If you could take a picture, or a movie, for their viewing, the Alaska Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement (ABWE), will certainly respond. People knowing they may be photographed or have a movie taken of them for evidentiary purposes may choose to wait until snagging season is opened.

A local resident reported she had been the victim of identify theft. Charges on a Citibank Credit Card in her name, in the amount of over \$1600.00, were made and she stated she doesn't have a Citibank card with that number. The matter had been turned over to a collection agency and when they were contacted they referred the Officer to Citibank. The investigation continues in this matter. **WARNING:** Check your invoices for charges that you did not make. The sooner you report it the less impacting it will be. Action needs to be taken right away to avoid further purchases by the suspect on your account...

A lady reported her daughter's new bicycle was damaged Sunday night when someone did something that bent the rear wheel. She reported the bicycle was recently purchased for \$200 and that threats had been made by a person reference trashing the bike. Police are investigating the incident. Anyone having information is encouraged to contact the Police Department.

Puffin Electric personnel reported a weed burner and propane tank taken from the Seldovia Harbor construction site on 4/10/07. The company name is on the white propane bottle. On 5/15/07 a large red & silver drill with a 6"X7/8" bit was taken from the approach to the harbor and on 5/24/07 a 12' fiberglass ladder, red in color with Puffin Electric written on it, was taken from the site. They had not reported the thefts until now hoping they were only borrowed and would be returned. If anyone knows the location of any of these items either contact the contractor @ 235-8160 or contact the Police Department.

Since last report 4 persons have requested Notary Public service, 3 people have requested assistance and 3 black bears have been sealed. (That is a total of 8 bears sealed to date. One other bear is known to have been taken and was sealed in Homer.)

