



# Seldovia Gazette

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### Tyler Benjamin Tucker - "Lots of irons in the fire"

*by Tamara Blodgett*



Like his fellow senior, Griffin Swick, Tyler was a Seldovia resident who was born in Homer, Alaska in May of 1990. His early years were spent here until age six where he fondly remembers a life of building forts, fishing the slough and wandering around freely, playing where he liked. Tyler recalls a lot of time spent outside and learning to love the outdoors at an early age.

Work eventually took the family to Oregon . Tyler began whetting his appetite for sports with a stint of football in sixth grade followed by wrestling in eight grade (where his season was unfortunately abbreviated by a sprained thumb). A little known fact may be the four years he was in band where he learned to play the alto sax. Tyler received his first drum set when he was just five and has steadily self-taught to the current time. He performed in the spring of 2006 in the SBE school concert. He regrets never seeing the band he and friends formed (just before his return to Seldovia) come to fruition. They had gone as far as setting up speakers, microphones and the like in a friend's basement to jam at will.

A change of lifestyle caused a move back to Seldovia in the summer before his freshman year. It was great for Tyler to get reacquainted with old friends. The transition was an easy one as each summer since the age of six Tyler had spent with his grandma, Gladys, a lifelong resident. Like so many kids here, Tyler enjoyed camping and Red Mountain was a family destination camping trip each year. He pursued fishing off the Seldovia Slough bridge for King Salmon and, of course, four wheeling!

His intense interest and camaraderie he found in the two sports he participated in while in high school surprised Tyler . Wrestling and basketball were really fun and important in this small town. It was a great way for him to meet people and foster friendships quickly. He hadn't been that "into" sports in Oregon , but it was the lifeblood of this small town and it became so for him as well.

He's been offered a good job with Hopkins Brothers Construction here locally and hopes to have an opportunity to work on a drilling rig sometime in the future. He is also interested in getting some welding experience at Glacier Drilling in Ninilchik. Having fished during the summers has made opportunities to meet people, one of who has encouraged his interest in pile driving and related occupations. His former captain, Pete, was a great source of information for some of the career paths that have interested him. Tyler has a lot of 'irons in the fire' and enjoys the options that present themselves.

He cannot wait for the spare moment when he can go fishing

*How has living in Seldovia affected you?*

I think it has been really good; I've learned a lot of good things here. I am an outdoors person and there is everything to do here and it's all in one place. Having lived in Oregon for eight years, I like Seldovia much better.

*What is your favorite memory of living here?*

Four wheeling and snow machining.

*What was your favorite subject?*

Welding Shop Class.

*Favorite sport/hobby?*

Wrestling and basketball; I like to work on motors.

*What will you miss most?*

Hanging out with friends.

*What are your plans for the future?*

Working full time and making some money!

*What are you most grateful for?*

Everybody (in town) putting up with my four wheeler and me!

*Who was an important influence for you?*

My dad and Dan Blodgett (wrestling coach).

*Favorite band/song?*

The band Rush (favorite song Tom Sawyer). I went to their 30th anniversary tour with my dad.

*Catchphrase?*

None.

*Final words?*

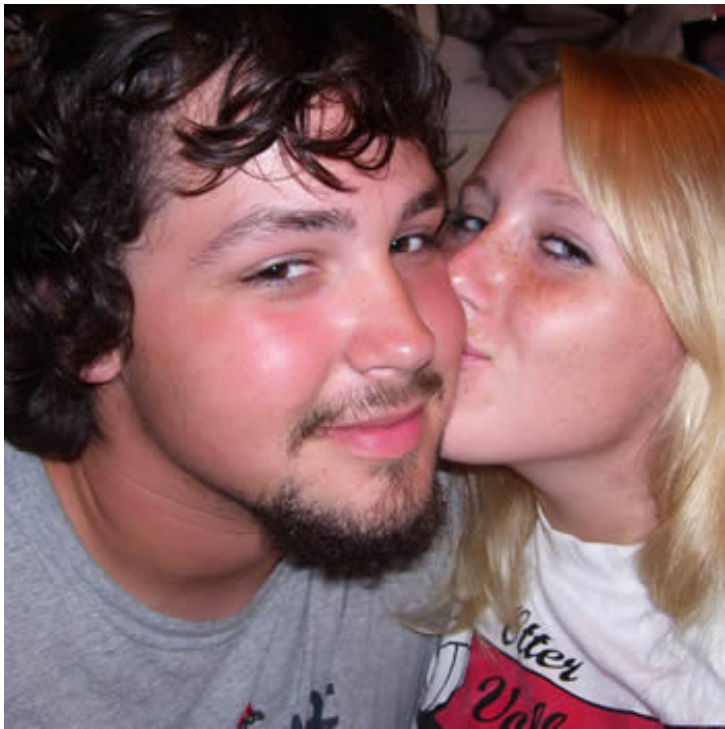
Enjoy it while it lasts!

and is looking forward to staying in Seldovia in the near future. He has spent his time in a larger population, having moved from Milwauke, Oregon prior to coming to Seldovia which was located just ten minutes outside Portland . Tyler loves the lifestyle here and doesn't yearn for the trappings of the "big city." He plans to live at home for a time until he saves enough money to comfortably move out. Things are going his way and he looks forward to an eventful and productive future.

{Editorial comment: I would like to thank all the seniors and their families for the generous sharing of personal stories and wonderful photos. Thank you and the best of luck to you all.}







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