



# Seldovia Gazette

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## Our Local Police Report

Submitted by Andy Anderson - Seldovia Chief of Police

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Call 911 for emergencies or assistance

The following report covers Police related business for the time period of 11/12/09 -12/10/2009.

- Two trees which had blown down on the frontage road at the Outside Beach Park during the wind storm were removed after a local resident signed a waiver at the City Office and agreed to remove all the limbs and debris.
- Police blocked a road for a dynamite blast off Frank Raby Drive. The blast went off without any problems.
- Police received a report of door open on a building on the Seldovia Slough. The doors were closed and secured. It appeared the wind had blown them open.
- Police called DOT out to sand Jakolof Bay Road on a weekend after it was reported the roads were slick and hazardous.
- A report of a pickup truck blocking a driveway resulted in citations being issued for "Expired Registration", "Open Alcohol Container in Vehicle" and "Operation of a Vehicle Without Insurance." The vehicle was removed and an arraignment on the insurance violation is pending.
- Police witnessed the "Oath of Office" for a man who is going for a Coast Guard license at the applicant's request.
- Police pulled a lady's vehicle out of a ditch on Jakolof Bay Road after she slid off the road due to icy conditions when going to work. No injuries and no damage were sustained in the accident.
- Police assisted a Contractor whose front end loader slid off the road due to icy conditions. DOT personnel were summoned and pulled the loader back onto the roadway.
- Police responded to assess damage to a power pole following a report of possible damage done when an excavator slid off the road in the vicinity of a power pole. A guy line was observed to have been broken. Photographs were taken, a report was written and delivered to HEA personnel.
- Police received a report of property owners pushing snow off their property onto an adjacent property. The investigation revealed the snow that was removed from the private properties was moved across the road but still on the right of way of the existing road. No action was taken by the Police.
- A local man, who had lost his privilege to drive, was charged with three counts of "Driving While License Revoked" following an investigation where-in he was observed driving on numerous occasions by local citizens while the Police Chief was out of town. Arraignment on the charges was set for 12/15/09 at 0900 hours. (Note: If a citizen witnesses a crime or a violation, and will testify in Court to what they observed, the Police can, and will, bring charges for the crime or violation in the witness's behalf. Police do not have to be present or witness the crime or violation for charges to be brought in the matter.)
- Police provided transportation for HEA personnel from Jakolof Bay Harbor when the weather was too inclement to fly. Following their work at the power plant they were taken back to Jakolof Bay Harbor to catch a boat back to Homer.
- A Yamaha ATV was observed on the airport apron without any registration stickers. A warning notice was left with the machine along with the ATV laws.
- A two vehicle accident occurred on Barabara Creek Hill when the roads were icy and a vehicle could not make the hill and was

stopped on the roadway. The oncoming vehicle, in an attempt to avoid a collision, hit the snow bank and was turned 180 degrees and collided with the vehicle. No injuries and minimal damage was sustained in the accident. No citations were issued but a report was completed and is on file.

- Police blocked the Jakolof Bay Road at the top of Barabara Creek Hill until DOT could remove a vehicle from the ditch and sand the hill to alleviate the hazard.
- A young man was observed to run a stop sign on his 4-wheeler and was stopped and questioned by the Police. The subject did not have his operator license on his person and the Officer followed him to his residence to be shown proof of his being licensed. He was verbally admonished but no citation was issued.
- Police are investigating a hit and run accident that left one vehicle damaged. The investigation continues in the matter but should be completed soon.
- A man reported he had been assaulted when hit in the head with a pool queue but he refused to pursue the matter. Although serious injuries could have been sustained the Police will not pursue the matter if the victim refuses to cooperate.
- A report of a man entering a business and confronting two people and placing them in fear of imminent physical injury continues. Charges are pending and the District Attorney (DA) has been contacted and the case is under review. A decision will be made in the near future as to what actions the DA wishes the Police to pursue.
- Police received a report of between 20 – 30 mahogany boards being taken from the CSW Construction Yard on Main Street. The boards are approximately ¾” X 16’ – 18’ long with some boards 8’ – 12’ long. The boards were stolen sometime during the Thanksgiving holiday between 11/25 and 11/30/2009. Anyone having any information is asked to contact the Police.
- The landing craft, Grand Slam, moored at the Jakolof Bay Harbor, was observed to be listing over during the heavy snow and rain storm recently. The caretaker was contacted and he, in turn, contacted the owner.
- HEA personnel requested a ride from the Seldovia Airport to their equipment during the power outage. Police provided the needed transportation.
- A man inadvertently locked his keys inside his vehicle. Police were called and were able to open the door for the man.
- A call reporting the possible theft of fire wood was taken and a subsequent investigation revealed the suspect was gathering wood from property owned by a relative.
- Police investigated an accident where-in a pickup truck lost traction, due to slick roadways, and slid backwards into a boat which was parked on its trailer alongside the road. The boat owner was contacted by the vehicle driver and the matter will be settled between them. Police took photographs and a report will be kept on file.
- Police assisted DOT personnel in moving derelict vehicles from the airport to the DOT shop where the vehicles could be drained and made ready for destruction
- Police were called and a report of speeding 4-wheelers was taken. Police responded observed a number of 4-wheelers to be parked on Main Street but no one could be found operating them. Two of the machines were left parked over night. Possibly the Police presence curtailed further activity of this nature.
- The Alaska State Troopers (AST) 911 operator called the Seldovia Police following a 911 hang up at the SBE School. An investigation revealed a youngster had been playing with the phone and dialed 911 then hung up. The youngster was taken to his residence and his guardian was informed of the violation and no further action was taken by the Police.
- INFORMATION: Anytime there is a 911 hang up the local Police are mandated to check on the welfare of persons at that location. In many instances people are unable to complete an emergency call due to violence, phone problems or illness and it is taken quite seriously when the 911 number is used as a prank or “just in fun”. It takes the Officer’s time and possibly takes him/her away from more serious calls. If you need to use 911 please do so but do not use it unless you need to. It is not a toy or a game.
- With the cold weather we find our windows are frosted and fogged up when we want to use our vehicles. Some reports of persons driving with obscured windows are being taken and those who are driving in this manner are subjecting themselves to all sorts of liabilities. First, it’s illegal to drive with snow, ice, frost or fogged windshields where you vision is limited and, if someone was involved in an accident due to their inability to see well, they could be held criminally responsible as well as civilly. Take the extra time to clear your windshields and side windows before leaving in your vehicle. It could save your receiving a citation and could be the difference in your future driving privileges were you to cause an injury because of it.

Tips From Andy...

## Buyer Beware...

Please be mindful of your sales receipt, and check it before you leave the register. This is NOT an urban legend. A friend of mine from Talkeetna had this happen to her at Fred Myers in Wasilla. You may have received it too, but with the holidays coming up please be mindful of this!

I bought a bunch of stuff, over \$150, & I glanced at my receipt as the cashier was handing me the bags. I saw a cash-back of \$40. I told her I didn't request a cash back & to delete it. She said I'd have to take the \$40 because she couldn't delete it. I told her to call a supervisor. The Supervisor came & said I'd have to take it. I said "NO!" Taking the \$40 would be a cash advance against my Discover & I wasn't paying interest on a cash advance!!!! If they couldn't delete it then they would have to delete the whole order. So the supervisor had the cashier delete the whole order & re-scan everything! The second time I looked at the electronic pad before I signed & a cash-back of \$20 popped up. At that point I told the cashier & she deleted it. The total came out right. The cashier agreed that the electronic pad must be defective. Obviously the cashier knew the electronic pad was defective because she NEVER offered me the \$40 at the beginning. Can you imagine how many people went through before me & at the end of her shift how much money she pocketed?

Just to alert everyone. My co-worker went to Wal-Mart last week. She had her items rung up by the cashier. The cashier hurried her along and didn't give her a receipt. She asked the cashier for a receipt and the cashier was annoyed and gave it to her. My co worker didn't look at her receipt until later that night. The receipt showed that she asked for \$20 cash back. SHE DID NOT ASK FOR CASH BACK! My co worker called Wal-Mart who investigated but could not see the cashier pocket the money. She then called her niece who works for the bank and her niece told her this. This is a new scam going on. The cashier will key in that you asked for cash back and then hand it to her friend who is the next person in line.

Please, please, please check your receipts right away when using credit or debit cards! This is NOT limited to Wal-Mart, although they are the largest retailer so they have the most incidents.

Addendum:

I am adding to this. My husband and I were in Wal-Mart and paying with credit card when my husband went to sign the credit card signer he just happen to notice there was a \$20 cash back added. He told the cashier that he did not ask nor want cash back and she said this machine has been messing up and she canceled it. We really didn't think anything of it until we read this email. I wonder how many people have been, or will be, "stung" by this one???? To make matters worse....

**THIS SCAM CAN BE DONE ANYWHERE (RETAIL/WHOLESALE) & AT ANY TIME!! BUYER BEWARE!**

## Hotel Key Cards

Ever wonder what is on your magnetic key card?

Answer:

- a. Customer's name
- b. Customer's partial home address
- c. Hotel room number
- d. Check-in date and out dates
- e. Customer's credit card number and expiration date!

When you turn them in to the front desk your personal information is there for any employee to access by simply scanning the card in the hotel scanner. An employee can take a hand full of cards home and using a scanning device, access the information onto a laptop computer and go shopping at your expense.

Simply put, hotels do not erase the information on these cards until an employee reissues the card to the next hotel guest. At that time, the new guest's information is electronically "overwritten" on the card and the previous guest's information is erased in the overwriting

process.

But until the card is rewritten for the next guest, it usually is kept in a drawer at the front desk with YOUR INFORMATION ON IT!

The bottom line is: Keep the cards, take them home with you, or destroy them. NEVER leave them behind in the room or room wastebasket, and NEVER turn them into the front desk when you check out of a room. They will not charge you for the card (it's illegal) and you'll be sure you are not leaving a lot of valuable personal information on it that could be easily lifted off with any simple scanning device card reader.

For the same reason, if you arrive at the airport and discover you still have the card key in your pocket, do not toss it in an airport trash basket. Take it home and destroy it by cutting it up, especially through the electronic information strip!

If you have a small magnet, pass it across the magnetic strip several times. Then try it in the door, it will not work. It erases everything on the card.

### Prevention...good advice

Dr. Vinay Goyal is an MBBS,DRM,DNB (Intensivist and Thyroid specialist) having clinical experience of over 20 years. He has worked in institutions like Hinduja Hospital ,Bombay Hospital ,Saifee Hospital , Tata ,Memorial etc.. Presently, he is heading our Nuclear Medicine Department and Thyroid clinic at Riddhivinayak Cardiac and Critical Centre, Malad (W). The following message given by him makes a lot of sense and is important for all to know.

The only portals of entry are the nostrils and mouth/throat. In a global epidemic of this nature, it's almost impossible to avoid coming into contact with H1N1 in spite of all precautions. Contact with H1N1 is not so much of a problem as proliferation is.

While you are still healthy and not showing any symptoms of H1N1 infection, in order to prevent proliferation, aggravation of symptoms and development of secondary infections, some very simple steps, not fully highlighted in most official communications, can be practiced (instead of focusing on how to stock N95 or Tamiflu):

1. Frequent hand-washing (well highlighted in all official communications).
2. "Hands-off-the-face" approach. Resist all temptations to touch any part of face (except to eat or bathe).
3. \*Gargle twice a day with warm salt water (use Listerine if you don't trust salt). \*H1N1 takes 2-3 days after initial infection in the throat/ nasal cavity to proliferate and show characteristic symptoms. gargling prevents proliferation. In a way, gargling with salt water has the same effect on a healthy individual that Tamiflu has on an infected one. Don't underestimate this simple, inexpensive and powerful preventative method.
4. Similar to 3 above, \*clean your nostrils at least once every day with warm salt water. \*Not everybody may be good at using a Neti pot to clean nasal cavities, but \*blowing the nose hard once a day and swabbing both nostrils with cotton buds dipped in warm salt water is very effective in bringing down viral population.\*
- 5.. \*Boost your natural immunity with foods that are rich in Vitamin C (Amla and other citrus fruits). \*If you have to supplement with Vitamin C tablets, make sure that it also has Zinc to boost absorption.
6. \*Drink as much of warm liquids (tea, coffee, etc) as you can. \*Drinking warm liquids has the same effect as gargling, but in the reverse direction. They wash off proliferating viruses from the throat into the stomach where they cannot survive, proliferate or do any harm.

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Can you tell when you are in a hotel room, restroom, motel etc. with a mirror,

## whether it is in fact a mirror or 2-way glass?

Do you know how to determine if a mirror is 2-way or not? This is not to scare you, but to make you aware. A policewoman who travels all over the U.S. and gives seminars and techniques for businesswomen passed this on. When we visit toilets, bathrooms, hotel rooms, changing rooms, etc., how many of you know for sure that the seemingly ordinary mirror hanging on the wall is a real mirror, or actually a 2-way mirror (i.e., they can see you, but you can't see them)? There have been many cases of people installing 2-way mirrors in female changing rooms. It is very difficult to positively identify the surface by just looking at it.

So, how do we determine with any amount of certainty what type of mirror we are looking at? Just conduct this simple test: Place the tip of your fingernail against the reflective surface and if there is a GAP between your fingernail and the image of the nail, then it is a GENUINE mirror. However, if your fingernail DIRECTLY TOUCHES the image of your nail, then BEWARE, FOR IT IS A 2-WAY MIRROR!

"No Space, Leave the Place" So remember, every time you see a Mirror, do the "fingernail test." It doesn't cost you anything.

Remember: "No Space, Leave the Place"

Ladies: Share this with your girlfriends, sisters, daughters, etc.

Men: Share this with your wives, daughters, daughters-in-law, mothers, girlfriends and friends.