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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 activities for the period of time from 08/03/2010 through 10/31/2010. (A long report)

Chief Anderson has been on medical leave following knee surgery thus the reason for the lack of Police reports in the Gazette for the last couple issues. We're back and you can expect to again hear what is happening in our little piece of paradise.

Recently many of us, even at the Police Department, have received collect telephone calls from a correctional institute in Texas asking that we dial a number to help a person, or possibly a family member, out. They ask you to call a certain number by first hitting the * on the telephone. If you do as requested you will be dialing a number like * 723- etc. and as soon as you dial the *72 you phone will be forwarded to another number and the person can then call anywhere in the world at your expense. If, by chance, the *72 number is dialed and you do experience problems, dial *73 to again get control of your phone line. Some people wanting to help out get pulled into this scam and wind up having to pay hundreds of dollars in phone bills to the phone company. If you do receive charges from the phone company please bring a copy of the invoice to the Police Department and we will get it to the Alaska State Troopers, who are investigating the cases. Rule #1 is don't, under any circumstances, dial *72, or, for that matter, accept any collect calls from any correctional institutions unless you know the person calling and want to get involved.

People cutting firewood in the Jakolof Road area must know the property owner and have permission to cut the wood on their property. If you have a permit through SNA, be sure you are on SNA property. Complaints are being taken about people cutting wood on private property and/or trespassing on or through private property with machinery to get their winter wood supply. If the wood is on the State right of way, and has fallen, it is 1st come 1st served but you do not have permission to cut any wood on the right of way that is standing. Taking wood from private property without permission is called theft and you can be prosecuted. The cost to you could be substantial and certainly more than a \$50 permit that is available through SNA.

- A vehicle was hit in the front right while it was parked on Main Street during the last part of July. Damage was sustained in this hit and run.
- Police served a written "Trespass Notice" on a person after being contacted by the manager of the property with the request for service.
- A man was served with Formal Charges of Theft in the 4th Degree and Criminal Trespass in the 1st Degree after information was gained that he had taken firewood from a neighbor's yard.

- A 4-wheeler accident resulted in a man being arrested and charged with DUI. The man pled guilty at his arraignment and was sentenced to 120 days in jail with 100 suspended, \$4000 fine with \$1000 suspended, \$50 surcharge, \$75 Police training surcharge, \$1467 Cost of Imprisonment charge, must complete a substance abuse treatment assessment within 10 days, operator's license was revoked for 1 year and after it is reinstated the man must have an ignition interlock device installed on the vehicle he is driving for a period of 24 months. He was placed on probation for 3 years and he must obey all Court orders within the time indicated, commit no jailable offenses and not drink to excess, over .08, while on probation. This sentence is the minimums for being found guilty for the 2nd offense of DUI.
- Police served a man with civil papers after receiving them in the mail.
- Approximately 10 gallons of gas was reportedly stolen from a Jeep parked at a residence on Rocky Street sometime during the daytime hours on 8/05/10.
- Police received a report of an open door at a vacant residence in the Russian trailer court. A subsequent investigation wasn't conclusive as to what, if anything was taken but the owners of the property were contacted and they made arrangements for the home to be secured.
- A Polaris Ranger side by side ATV was found to be a road hazard on Rocky Road at approximately 1 mile. Police were able to push the vehicle to the side of the road eliminating the hazard.
- On 8/4 – 8/5 a vehicle parked in the 14 day parking lot at the Harbor was hit by another vehicle. Minimal damage to the vehicle was sustained but no information was left by the party responsible for the accident.
- Police responded to a call for assistance in a domestic dispute and were able to alleviate the problem without any violence taking place.
- A man called the Police regarding a domestic dispute between himself and his wife. He stated his wife was intoxicated and unruly and he wanted the activity recorded by the Police Department.
- After a loud 4-wheeler was heard driving around town late at night, Police contacted the owner and ordered the vehicle parked until a stock muffler was installed.
- Police received a report of a vehicle collision from the driver of the vehicle that backed into a parked car. Information was exchanged between the two parties and the Police took no action.
- Following an indictment for Burglary of a residence a local man was served with the charging documents.
- A lady reported a black bear was playing peek-a-boo with her children and was snapping its jaws at them. It was also reportedly not afraid of a dog when the dog attempted to discourage the animal's presence. The Police disposed of the animal and gave the bear to a family who will utilize the meat.
- A white Apple I-Pod was reportedly stolen from a student at the SBE School sometime in August.
- Police assisted the EMT's in a medi-vac by lighting the airfield for the departure and return of the aircraft.
- Police were called on following a lady backing into a parked vehicle on Main Street. No injuries were sustained but

considerable damage did occur to the parked vehicle. An accident report was completed and filed with the State of Alaska.

- Police recovered a stolen vehicle at the Outside Beach Park. The investigation revealed a family member had taken the vehicle without permission and the matter was handled informally.
- Two bicycles and 350' of garden hose were reportedly stolen from the area of the City boat haul out yard. The two bikes were Schwinn bikes, blue in color with the wire baskets, one on the front of one bike and two on the back of the other. Anyone having any information regarding the bikes or the hose is asked to contact the Police Department.
- A report of suspicious circumstances was received following a skiff being observed on a neighbors gear in the Kasitsna Bay area and after the skiff ran over two running lines in the same area. Investigation continues in this matter.
- A man asked for assistance after he locked the keys inside his vehicle. Police responded and the doors were opened.
- Police responded to a Civil Dispute between two neighbors. The dispute was regarding boundaries when the Complainant was going to add fill to his driveway. Police responded to keep the peace and not make any decisions regarding boundaries. The fill was added and a Police Report was made. Police had to return a second time but no violence occurred. Photographs were taken and put on file at the Police Department.
- Police served civil papers on a local residence after they were received via the mail.
- Three subpoenas were served by the Police to local residents for an upcoming trial dealing with Theft and Criminal Trespass.
- Two subpoenas were served on two local residents for an upcoming trial regarding the Burglary of a residence.
- Police blocked the roadway in the East Addition on two separate occasions while a local contractor blasted some rock near a residence.
- A man reported 40 sheets of 4'X8'X1/2" Plywood was stolen from his property located on Bickford Circle sometime during the month of September and before September 23rd. This is a Felony Theft and anyone having any information is asked to contact the Seldovia Police Department or call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-478-HALT.
- A man was contacted and told to control his animal after a person reportedly was chased while riding a bicycle on Shoreline Drive.
- A laptop computer was left at a local business and turned into the Police Department. The owner was contacted and the computer was returned.
- A man was contacted regarding a very loud vehicle that was reportedly running around town late at night. The man was warned against further activities of this nature and told to park the vehicle until the muffler was in place.
- A man brought three For Sale signs to the Police with the writing "Bankruptcy Sale" written on them. The signs had been placed on three of his properties. He assured the Officer he was not in bankruptcy and the properties are not for sale.
- Police responded following a report of people observed cutting firewood on private property. The parties could not be located when Police arrived and it could not be determined if the wood had been taken from private property.
- A written warning notice was placed on a vehicle that was observed parked at the Harbor with expired registration. The owner

was directed to renew the registration prior to further use.

- A lady asked the Police to unlock her vehicle parked at Smokey Bay Airlines so information to be removed by a family member. The caller was in Anchorage at the time of the call.
- A man reported his vehicle had been tampered with while it was parked at the Smokey Bay Airlines parking lot. .
- An investigation was conducted regarding a report of a student bullying another student while on school grounds after school hours. The report was completed and a student was verbally chastised for his activity in the incident.
- Police assisted the Maintenance Department when a boat was moved to 4.5 mile, Jakolof Bay Road.
- Flares, a flare gun and a first aide kit were found on the ground at the boat haul out facility. It appeared they had been discarded after being taken off a boat.
- Police were called refering a report by the property care taker of a vehicle parked on private property. The man in charge of the property informed the Police the man had permission to park on the land and no further action was taken.
- A man reported the theft of approximately 100 gallons of diesel fuel from a dump truck that was left on his property in the East Addition sometime during the weekend of 10/9 – 10/11/10.
- Police were called when a child ran away from her residence following an argument. Arrangements were made with another family member to care for the juvenile.
- A man reportedly skidded logs through private property when getting his winter firewood. A telephone number of the property owner was given to the man so he could contact him and tell him what had occurred. The man did not know it was private property he was dragging the logs through.
- A lady was stopped and given a warning for running a stop sign. She was told the fine is \$100 and you have 4 points assessed to your driver's license. Your insurance companies do not like points assessed to your driving record.
- Police met with the SBE School faculty and outlined what would occur in the event of an active shooter at the school.
- A dump was stopped and the driver contacted reference an expired registration. The subsequent investigation revealed the driver did not have a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) and the registration on the vehicle was expired. Two citations were issued and a Court date was set for the arraignment on the license charge. It is a Misdemeanor Crime to drive a commercial vehicle without a CDL in the State of Alaska.
- The report of a boy being bullied was investigated and was found to be mutual combat in that everyone present was taking part in the pushing and shoving that was taking place.
- A Welfare Check was done on a local residence after a phone was disconnected and all attempts to call back were futile. Contact with the person found all to be fine and a phone had inadvertently been knocked off onto the floor.
- A gear shed was secured after Police found it to be open with the lights on after the crew using it had left town.
- Police became involved in a civil problem following a report that a building storing another man's belongings was being torn down. The investigation revealed the matter was civil and the ownership of the building in question was claimed by two

parties. No action was taken by the Police.

- Police responded to assist EMT's after a call was received of a person reacting violently. The subject was restrained and medical assistant was given which included a medi-vac.
- Two eggs were thrown at the Police vehicle from the Russian Church hill area but that was the extent of the problems for the evening and night of Halloween. Funny, kids used to have more respect for the law.
- Dogs are again becoming the focus of the Police Department after calls and sightings of dogs at large are becoming more prevalent. I guess citations is the answer so get your money out, here comes the tickets.
- Since the last report the Police have sealed 17 black bears, trapped 4 black bears and put 3 problem bears down. It has been a busy year for black bears.
- Five people have been fingerprinted for employment purposes since last report.

It's winter again and this means our windshields will be iced over in the mornings and the kids and adults will be walking on the streets in the dark hours. Be sure your windshields are clear and drive with your lights on so as to avoid accidents. Slow down on the icy streets and lets enjoy a safe winter.

Tips From Andy...

The "Tips from Andy" are provided as information, to our citizens and friends to be alert to potential situations that may arise. Both the Chief and I have checked on the reliability of the advice through sources like Google, BreakTheChain, Hoax-Slayer or Snopes, etc. But it is important to note, that even with the checking of this information, we are relying on the truth of yet another internet source.

This is a new one. People sure stay busy trying to rip us off, don't they?

SCENE 1

A friend went to the local gym and placed his belongings in the locker. After the workout and a shower, he came out, saw the locker open, and thought to himself, 'Funny, I thought I locked the locker. Hmm, 'He dressed and just flipped the wallet to make sure all was in order. Everything looked okay - all cards were in place.

A few weeks later his credit card bill came - a whooping bill of \$14,000! He called the credit card company and started yelling at them, saying that he did not make the transactions. Customer care personnel verified there was no Mistake in the system and asked if his card had been stolen. 'No,' he said, but then took out his wallet, pulled out the credit card, and yep - you guessed it - a switch had been made. An expired similar credit card from the same bank was in the wallet. The thief broke into his locker at the gym and switched cards.

Verdict: The credit card issuer said since he did not report the card missing earlier, he would have to pay the amount owed to them . How much did he have to pay for items he did not buy? \$9,000! Why were there no calls made to verify the amount swiped? Small amounts rarely trigger a 'warning bell' with some credit card companies. It just so happens that all the small amounts added up to big one!

SCENE 2

A man at a local restaurant paid for his meal with his credit card. The bill for the meal came, he signed it and the waitress folded the receipt and passed the credit card along. Usually, he would just take it and place it in his wallet or pocket. Funny enough, though, he actually took a look at the card and, lo and behold, it was the expired card of another person. He called the waitress and she looked perplexed. She took it back, apologized, and hurried back to the counter under the watchful eye of the man.

All the waitress did while walking to the counter was wave the wrong expired card to the counter cashier, and the counter cashier immediately looked down and took out the real card. No exchange of words --- nothing! She took it and came back to the man with an apology.

Verdict: Make sure the credit cards in your wallet are yours. Check the name on the card every time you sign for something and/or the card is taken away for even a short period of time. Many people just take back the credit card without even looking at it, 'assuming' it has to be theirs.

FOR YOUR OWN SAKE, DEVELOP THE HABIT OF CHECKING YOUR CREDIT CARD EACH TIME IT IS RETURNED TO YOU AFTER A TRANSACTION!

SCENE 3

Yesterday I went into a pizza restaurant to pick up an order that I had called i. I paid by using my Visa Check Card which, of course, is linked directly to my checking account. The young man behind the counter took my card, swiped it, and then laid it on the counter as he waited for the approval, which is pretty standard procedure. While he waited, he picked up his cell phone and started dialing. I noticed the phone because it is the same model I have, but nothing seemed out of the ordinary. Then I heard a click which sounded like my phone sounds when I take a picture. He then gave me back my card but kept the phone in his hand as if he was still pressing buttons. Meanwhile, I'm thinking: I wonder what he is taking a picture of, oblivious to what was really going on. It then dawned on me: the only thing there was my credit card, so now I'm paying close attention to what he is doing.

He set his phone on the counter, leaving it open. About five seconds later, I heard the chime that tells you that the picture has been saved. Now I'm standing there struggling with the fact that this boy just took a picture of my credit card. Yes, he played it off well, because had we not had the same kind of phone, I probably would never have known what happened. Needless to say, I immediately canceled that card as I was walking out of the pizza parlor.

All I am saying is be aware of your surroundings at all times. Whenever you are using your credit card take caution and don't be careless. Notice who is standing near you and what they are doing when you use your card. Be aware of phones, because many have a camera phone these days.

TELL AS MANY PEOPLE AS YOU CAN THINK OF. LET'S GET THE WORD OUT! JUST BE AWARE!

Never let your card out of your sight check and check again!

Scary isn't it.

Jury Duty Scam

Alaska State Troopers are warning the public against a scam hitting the nation aggressively pursuing identity theft through jury duty summons.

The caller claims to be a jury coordinator and states that you failed to show up for jury duty. If you protest that you never received a summons for jury duty, the scammer asks you for your Social Security number and date of birth. The caller claims they need the information to check their system for an error and so the fictitious arrest warrant can be cleared. **DO NOT COMPLY!!!** By providing the caller with your personal information, you become the victim of identity theft.

Most of us take summonses for jury duty seriously, but enough people skip out on their civic duty that this new scam has surfaced. This scam has been reported in 11 states. The scam is particularly insidious because the callers pretend to be with the court system and use intimidation tactics over the phone to try to bully people into giving information. The FBI and the federal court system have issued nationwide alerts on their web sites, warning consumers about the fraud.

Keeping Records Safe

[Click Here to Go Directly to Social Security Online Website](#)

[Click Here for Article about Keeping Your Records Safe - Jean Chatzky](#)

[A Letter From A Corporate Attorney To The Employees of His Company](#)

1. Do not sign the back of your credit cards. Instead, put 'PHOTO ID REQUIRED.'
2. When you are writing checks to pay on your credit card accounts, DO NOT put the complete account number on the 'For/Memo' line. Instead, just put the last four numbers. The credit card company knows the rest of the number, and anyone who might be handling your check as it passes through all the check processing channels won't have access to it.
3. Put your work phone # on your checks instead of your home phone. If you have a PO Box use that instead of your home address. If you do not have a PO Box, use your work address. Never have your SS# printed on your checks. (DUH!) You can add it if it is necessary. But if you have it printed, anyone can get it.
4. Place the contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine. Do both sides of each license, credit card, etc. You will know what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel. Keep the photocopy in a safe place. I also carry a photocopy of my passport when I travel either here or abroad. We've all heard horror stories about fraud that's committed on us in stealing a Name, address, Social Security number, credit cards. In case your luggage is lost, take another list in your carry on bag, especially if you are abroad and need immediate access to those numbers.

Unfortunately, I, an attorney, have first hand knowledge because my wallet was stolen last month. Within a week, the thieves ordered an expensive monthly cell phone package, applied for a VISA credit card, had a credit line approved to buy a Gateway computer, received a PIN number from DMV to change my driving record information online, and more. But here's some critical information to limit the damage in case this happens to you or someone you know:

5. We have been told we should cancel our credit cards immediately. But the key is having the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know whom to call. Keep those where you can find them.
6. File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where your credit cards, etc., were stolen. This proves to credit providers you were diligent, and this is a first step toward an investigation (if there ever is one).

But here's what is perhaps most important of all: (I never even thought to do this.)

7. Call the 3 national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and also call the Social Security fraud line number. I had never heard of doing that until advised by a bank that called to tell me an application for credit was made over the Internet in my name. The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen, and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit.

By the time I was advised to do this, almost two weeks after the theft, all the damage had been done. There are records of all the credit checks initiated by the thieves' purchases, none of which I knew about before placing the alert. Since then, no additional damage has been done, and the thieves threw my wallet away this weekend (someone turned it in). It seems to have stopped them dead in their tracks.

If you are willing to pass this information along, it could really help someone that you care about.

BEWARE - New Credit Card Scam

Snopes.com : <http://www.snopes.com/crime/warnings/creditcard.asp>

About.com: http://urbanlegends.about.com/library/bl_credit_card_fraud.htm

This one is pretty slick since they provide YOU with all the information, except the one piece they want.

Note, the callers do not ask for your card number; they already have it.. This information is worth reading. By understanding how the VISA & Master Card Telephone Credit Card Scam works, you'll be better prepared to protect yourself.

One of our employees was called on Wednesday from 'VISA', and I was called on Thursday from 'Master Card'.. The scam works like this: Caller: 'This is (name), and I'm calling from the Security and Fraud Department at VISA. My Badge number is 12460. Your card has been flagged for an unusual purchase pattern, and I'm calling to verify. This would be on your VISA card which was issued by (name of bank). Did you purchase an Anti-Telemarketing Device for \$497.99 from a Marketing company based in ?'

When you say 'No', the caller continues with, 'Then we will be issuing a credit to your account. This is a company we have been watching and the charges range from \$297 to \$497, just under the \$500 purchase pattern that flags most cards. Before your next statement, the credit will be sent to (gives you your address), is that correct?'

You say 'yes'. The caller continues - 'I will be starting a Fraud investigation. If you have any questions, you should call the 1- 800 number listed on the back of your card (1-800 -VISA) and ask for Security.'

You will need to refer to this Control Number. The caller then gives you a 6 digit number. 'Do you need me to read it again?'

Here's the IMPORTANT part on how the scam works. The caller then says, 'I need to verify you are in possession of your card'. He'll ask you to 'turn your card over and look for some numbers'. There are 7 numbers; the first 4 are part of your card number, the next 3 are the security Numbers that verify you are the possessor of the card. These are the numbers you sometimes use to make Internet purchases to prove you have the card. The caller will ask you to read the 3 numbers to him. After you tell the caller the 3 numbers, he'll say, 'That is correct, I just needed to verify that the card has not been lost or stolen, and that you still have your card. Do you have any other questions?' After you say No, the caller then thanks you and states, 'Don't hesitate to call back if you do, and hangs up.

You actually say very little, and they never ask for or tell you the Card number. But after we were called on Wednesday, we called back within 20 minutes to ask a question. Are we glad we did! The REAL VISA Security Department told us it was a scam and in the last 15 minutes a new purchase of \$497.99 was charged to our card.

Long story - short - we made a real fraud report and closed the VISA account. VISA is reissuing us a new number.**What the scammers want is the 3-digit PIN number on the back of the card.** Don't give it to them. Instead, tell them you'll call VISA or Master card directly for verification of their conversation. The real VISA told us that they will never ask for anything on the card as they already know the information since they issued the card! If you give the scammers your 3 Digit PIN Number, you think you're receiving a credit. However, by the time you get your statement you'll see charges for purchases you didn't make, and by then it's almost too late and/or more difficult to actually file a fraud report.

What makes this more remarkable is that on Thursday, I got a call from a 'Jason Richardson of Master Card' with a word-for-word repeat of the VISA scam. This time I didn't let him finish. I hung up! We filed a police report, as instructed by VISA. The police said they are taking several of these reports daily! They also urged us to tell everybody we know that this scam is happening. Please pass this on to all your family, friends and neighbors. By informing each other, we protect each other.

Good Advice about emails

A friend who's a computer expert received the following from a system administrator for a corporate system. It is an excellent message that absolutely applies to all of us who send emails. Please read the short letter below, even if you're sure you already follow proper procedures. Do you really know how to forward emails? Only 50% of us do.

Do you wonder why you get viruses or junk mail and hate it? Every time you forward an email there is information left over from the people who got it before you. Namely their email addresses and names. As the messages get forwarded along, the list of addresses build and build, until all it takes is for some poor sap to get a virus and his/her computer can send that virus to every email address that has come across his computer. Or, someone can take all of those addresses and sell or send them junk mail in the hopes that you'll go to the site and he'll make five cents for each hit. That's right, all of that inconvenience over a nickel! How do you stop it? There are several easy steps. Try the following if you aren't doing it already:

(1) When you forward an email, delete all of the addresses that appear in the body of the message (at the top). That's right, delete them. Highlight them and delete them, backspace them, cut them, whatever it is you know how to do. It only takes a second. You must click the 'Forward' button first and then you will have full editing capabilities against the body and headers of the message. If you don't click 'Forward' first, you won't be able to edit the message at all.

(2) Whenever you send an email to more than one person, do not use the To: or Cc: fields for adding addresses. Always use the BCC: (blind carbon copy) field for listing the addresses. This way the people you send to will only see their own email address. If you don't see your BCC: option click on where it says To: and your address list will appear. Highlight the address and choose BCC and that's it, it's that easy. When you send to BCC your message will automatically say 'Undisclosed Recipients' in the 'TO:' field of the people who receive it.

(3) Remove any 'FW ' in the subject line. You can rename the subject if you wish or even fix spelling.

(4) Always hit your Forward button from the actual email you are reading. Ever get those emails that you have to open 10 pages to read the one page with the information on it? By Forwarding from the actual page you wish someone to view, you stop them from having to open many emails just to see what you sent.

(5) Have you ever gotten an email that is a petition? It states a position and asks you to add your name and to forward it to 10 or 15 people or your entire address book. The email can be forwarded on and on and can collect thousands of names and addresses. A FACT: The petition is actually worth a couple of bucks to a professional spammer because of the wealth of names and addresses contained there. Do not put your email address on any petition. If you want to support the petition, send it as your own personal letter to the intended recipient. Your position may carry more weight as a personal letter than a laundry list of names and addresses on a petition. (And don't believe the ones that say that the email is being traced, it just ain't so!)

Some of the other emails to delete and not forward are:

1. The one that says something like, 'Send this email to 10 people and you'll see something great run across your screen.' Or sometimes they'll just tease you by saying 'some-thing really cute will happen.' IT AIN'T GONNA HAPPEN! (We're still seeing some of the same emails from 10 years ago!)

2. I don't let the bad luck ones scare you, they get trashed.

3. Before you forward an 'Amber Alert', or a 'Virus Alert', or some of the other emails floating around now-a-days, check them out before you forward them. Most of them are junk mail that's been circling for YEARS! Just about everything you receive in an email that is in question can be checked out at Snopes. Just go to www.snopes.com. It's really easy to find out if it's real or not. If it's not, don't pass it on.

Another way to check if a real virus exists is to pull up Google as a web browser and type in the title of the suspect virus, ie: mad cow virus, then enter it. Google will display a number of sources that will verify it as a virus or as a hoax.

So please, in the future, let's stop the junk mail and the viruses and be a good email neighbor.

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