



Seldovia Gazette

Serving Seldovia, Alaska and Kachemak Bay southeast

Seldovia, AK

59 °F / 15 °C

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at 7:53 PM



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Thursday, June 9, 2005

Just another day in paradise

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Greetings from the Editor!



I've worn a number of "hats" in my few short years living in Seldovia, and I'm honored to wear this latest one: Editor of the Seldovia Gazette.

When Tom and Mary Glover approached me to write for the Seldovia Gazette, I was awed at the prospect of being able to stay in Seldovia and write for a living. I'm an English teacher by trade, and these days it seems teachers must go where districts place them. I count it a true blessing to be able to live and work in Seldovia.

I also see this paper as a great opportunity. Not just for me, but for Seldovia as a whole. Small-town papers are an important albeit quickly disappearing facet of American life. They foster community conversations. They give people the scoop, and let them make their own decisions. I look forward to the day I see two people talking over a cup of coffee, the Seldovia Gazette in their hands.

As Editor, I feel my role is to sift out the rumor and the spin that floats around all towns, and concentrate on what is true and significant about a story. Please, if you see a story that isn't being covered, tell me about it. My goal is to inform all citizens - elders, businessmen, fisher folk, homemakers, blue collar workers, students, artists, and the unemployed - of the news that is important and relevant to them.

A few words about me: Most of you have probably seen me at the Tide Pool Cafe where, as of late, I've been slinging sandwiches during the noon-time rush. I'm also a volunteer with the Fire Department. Originally, I grew up in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. In 2001, I moved to Alaska with my long-time partner, Andy Lorentz, and together we've lived in Seldovia for two years. This winter Andy and I left Seldovia briefly to travel Korea; the year before that I taught English at Susan B. English School. Andy and I live "out the road" with our two dogs, in a timber-frame cabin that is near-completion. We both love living in Seldovia and plan to make it our home.

By the way, the Letters to the Editor section is a forum for you to comment on issues facing Seldovians. Write in. I will attempt to publish all letters in their entirety, so long as they are not libelous or long-winded.

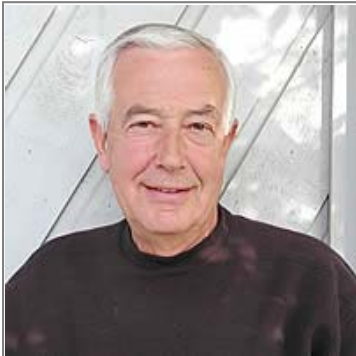
Thank you for your support in making the Seldovia Gazette a permanent and viable part of our town.

Damara Burnett

2 Cents Worth

Each week, the Seldovia Gazette asks residents for their "two cents" on issues of relevance to the community. This week, with the DOT proposed airport move looming, the Seldovia Gazette asked:

Should the current airport be moved to accommodate runway lighting?



"No. In the name of safety this runway is in the best place you could put it."

Jerry Swanson

"In a nutshell, it should not be moved. I've flown everything from Navajo Chieftans to Supercubs and everything in between. It's never been a problem."

Corky Myers



"No. I moved to Seldovia because it's a quiet, beautiful place. I realize change is inevitable, I just prefer for it not to change too fast."

Kathleen George

"No. Unless they do it quickly and I get that \$50,000 an acre check."

Jere Murray



Letters to the Editor

Fire & EMS volunteers receive kudos for quick and collaborative response

Seldovia Volunteer Fire and EMS received a 911 call early on the morning of May 30th, asking us to respond to the harbor float for a 15 year old male in seizure. EMT's responded, both directly to the scene and to the ambulance and our equipment, which arrived on scene moments later.

EMT's and firefighters worked together to get the patient up the ramp, at low tide, and transferred first to our own medical clinic and then to South Peninsula Hospital. Our dispatchers were able to locate a pilot and a plane willing to transport at that time of night, and our police chief lit the runway for the takeoff and return of the plane and personnel.

Due to recent training with the firefighters and EMT's – with exactly this situation in mind – the patient was moved efficiently and quickly from the float to the ambulance with a minimum of hassle. This is quite the operation, and without the foresight of training and coordination of personnel, it would not have been the efficient operation it turned out to be.

It is a privilege to work with this volunteer department. Their dedication and professionalism is an inspiration, and makes the difference between life and death in many situations. Thank you for the opportunity to serve on this department, and the support of the City of Seldovia in maintaining this vital volunteer service to our community.

Lisa O'Leary,
EMS Chief
Seldvoia Volunteer Fire & EMS

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