



# Seldovia Gazette

Serving Seldovia, Alaska and Kachemak Bay southeast

Seldovia, AK

54 °F / 12 °C

Clear

at 12:53 PM



[Click for Forecast](#)

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Just another day in paradise

Vol. 1, No.2, June 16, 2005

[Local News](#)

[Calendar](#)

[Opinions](#)

[SBE School](#)

[Classifieds](#)

[Archives](#)

[Seldovia.com](#)

[Newspaper Services](#)

[Top Stories](#) | [City Managers Corner](#) | [Police Report](#) | [Profiles](#)

## Headlines

- ▶ [Dubber departs](#)
- ▶ [Fast-ferry: phase one set to begin](#)
- ▶ [Chamber sponsors FAM trip](#)
- ▶ [Seldovia Profile: Wheeler's open Crabpot Cafe](#)
- ▶ [City Managers Corner](#)
- ▶ [Police Report](#)
- ▶ [Nicked cable shuts down phones on Main Street](#)



2 Cents Worth

- ▶ [Greetings from the Editor](#)
- ▶ [Seldovia Arts Council announces the schedule of events and transportation information for this years Folk Festival on June 17 & 18](#)
- ▶ [Harbor Survey Priority Results \(you need Adobe Acrobat Reader to view this document\)](#)

## Top Stories

### Dubber departs

*History teacher officially resigns*

by *Damara Burnett*

For Leah Dubber, teaching at a small school has been a catch-22. She loves connecting with each of her students as individuals - learning each student's unique personality and quirky ways - and a small school has afforded her the opportunity to do so. On the other hand, working in a school with such a small student enrollment has required her to teach subjects outside of her content area. For a certified history teacher, that has not been an easy task.

She's taught Creative Writing, for example. And Ceramics. Last year, four of the six classes Dubber taught were not history classes. And the schedule for the 2005-06 school year promises to be even more demanding.



"Looking at the schedule for next year, I was only going to be teaching one history class," Dubber said in an interview. "I'm passionate about teaching history. I just can't teach those other subjects the way they need to be taught."

Her realization brought forth a new decision: to resign from her post as a grade 7-12 teacher at Susan B. English School. On Friday, June 10th, Dubber submitted an official letter of resignation to Tim Peterson, Director of Human Resources for the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District.

"This has been an agonizing decision," she said. "I love my students. I'm sad about leaving them."

Dubber, a life-long Alaskan, began teaching in Seldovia in 2003, following two years of missionary work in Croatia. She has a Master of Arts degree in History from Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas, and a Master of Arts degree in Secondary Education from the University of Alaska, Anchorage.

Upon hearing of Dubber's departure, many SBE students stated they would miss her presence in the classroom this fall.

"She always has such a sunny disposition," said student Samantha Herndon. "She's

## Marketplace

>> Summer Special <<



2 nights at Seaport Cottage + Round trip on Smokey Bay

Only \$275. Call for details 907-234-7483

>>NEWS DISCOUNT <<  
SAVE \$\$\$\$

Great Northern Air just called 6/17/05 Deep discounts for Anchorage to Seldovia for Festival this weekend!  
Call: (800) 243-1968

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

passionate about teaching."

"Ms. Dubber is easy to work with," added Adrienne Cameron, "if you have a problem she works with you on it."

Dubber recognizes that working alongside a team of teachers at SBE - some with more experience in the classroom - greatly benefited her.

"Karen [Bornheimer] really mentored me," Dubber said. "I've learned so much from her."

She also acknowledged that because Seldovia is such a small town she was able to "touch base" with parents on a personal level - a communication link she found essential and gratifying.

However, in the end, Dubber saw the draw of a larger school, where she could specifically teach the subject she was certified to teach. She is currently applying for several grade 7-12 history positions on the Kenai Peninsula .

"Seldovia is a phenomenal place," Dubber said. "You definitely haven't seen the last of me."

Leah Dubber's resignation is the third in a string of SBE teaching resignations this year. Former Principal, Craig Johnson, and former Special Education teacher, Charity Winters, both officially resigned from their positions in May.

## **Fast-ferry: phase one set to begin**

*Allen Marine contender for ferry bid*

*by Damara Burnett*

Two million in federal dollars will soon be changing hands according to Mike Beal, CEO of Seldovia Native Association. Beal expects two million designated for the design and development of the Kachemak Bay Daily Ferry to be transferred from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to the Seldovia Village Tribe within a matter of weeks. SVT will then contract with SNA, the native corporation who will manage all aspects of the ferry project.

The two million was initially awarded by Congress in the winter of 2003. Beal said the delay in receiving the funds until now was due to a hold-up in Washington D.C. and the "budget deficit problems" government officials were facing there. In April, the money was transferred to the BIA, who will have administrative oversight for the project.

"This [money] is ready to roll," Beal said in an interview Tuesday.

The first priority of the project, as stated in the SNA budget, will be to hold public meetings at each of the areas affected by the proposed ferry. Those locations include Homer, Seldovia, Port Graham, Nanwalek, Halibut Cove, and Peterson Point. The budget allocates \$76,000 to hold public meetings to "listen to the concerns of the citizens and get their input as to what type of vessel would best fit the needs of the entire Kachemak Bay area."

Following this community outreach, SNA will request and evaluate proposals for the design of the ferry. Two awards of \$70,000 each will be awarded to the best "Feasibility Design" studies and then one company will be selected to produce a more in-depth study: the "Preliminary Design" study. It will include a technical proposal and a cost proposal. The award for the Preliminary Design study is designated at \$1,175,000.

Beal noted that Allen Marine, Inc., a business based out of Sitka, Alaska, recently became a serious contender for the ferry bidding process. Lockheed-Martin was the company who originally drew the structural designs for the ferry as it was proposed to the public in 2003.

Allen Marine has been designing and building boats, bridges, ramps, and floats since 1967. In 1999, they were named the Small Business of the Year by the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce. From 1999-2003 they designed and built nineteen fast ferries for New York Harbor. Thirteen of those ferries were 78 foot aluminum catamarans and six were 65 foot aluminum monohulls.

The Allen Marine, Inc. website has brochures for four separate passenger vessels they build. Two are 105 foot and 78 foot catamarans which each hold 150 passengers and travel at 28 knots. The two boats are for 65 foot vessels – one catamaran and one monohull – which each hold approximately 100 passengers and travel between 30-34 knots. Allen Marine notes that custom vessels can be constructed to meet specific requirements.

According to Beal, the City of Seldovia and the Kachemak Bay Steering Committee won't officially enter Phase One of the project until after the Preliminary Design study is awarded. At that time, research will be done on Port Authority law, ordinances will be drafted, and rules and regulations will be set. The municipality will then vote on the Port Authority ordinance.

Beal noted that such research probably won't begin for another year, but that city work should be fully funded by the project. \$74,000 is allocated in the budget for the process.

In December, an additional 6 million was committed by the U.S. Congress for construction of the ferry and the infrastructure needed to support it. Beal stated that the new federal dollars can't be used by SVT until the Design and Development phase of the project is completed. He remains optimistic that despite the shortfall of money needed to cover construction of the ferry - a deficit of 6 million dollars - the necessary funds will be secured to complete it.

## Chamber Sponsors FAM Trip

*By Joni Reynertson*

The Seldovia Chamber of Commerce sponsored a familiarization (FAM) trip for surrounding tour operators, restaurant, gift shop and other business owners. The objective was to highlight businesses in Seldovia and show what we have to offer. The Chamber invited the owners of these businesses to Seldovia to experience our wonderful town and all the beauty we have to offer. This was our opportunity to “shine” and by all accounts we did just that! Over 50 people from Homer, Anchor Point, and beyond showed up and all had a wonderful time. Here was the itinerary:

Central Charters *Spirit* Boat arrived at 1:00 p.m. (A very big thank you to Tim Cashman for providing transportation to and from Seldovia gratis!!)



Registration occurred at Seldovia Village Tribe Visitor's Center where participants were divided up into groups (each group had a personal tour guide...Thank you to Mike Webber, Trinket Gallien, Jan Wyland, Mary Glover, Rod Hilts, and Peggy Keesacker). Each group was given a guided tour of the town by the tour guides and the guides talked about the following participating Chamber businesses:

<b>Alaska Dancing Eagle</b>	<b>Linwood Bar</b>
<b>Alaska Tree Tops Lodge</b>	<b>Mainstreet Market</b>
<b>Alaska Tribal Cache</b>	<b>ReMax Realty</b>
<b>ATVentures</b>	<b>Seaport Cottages</b>
<b>Beachcomber Realty</b>	<b>Seldovia Bayview Suites</b>
<b>Bear Paw B&amp;B</b>	<b>Seldovia Native Association</b>
<b>Boys and Girls Club</b>	<b>Seldovia Cab</b>
<b>Boardwalk Hotel</b>	<b>Seldovia.com</b>
<b>Bridgekeepers Inn</b>	<b>Seldovia Fishing Adventures</b>
<b>C-Ber Alaska Ltd.</b>	<b>Seldovia Rowing Club</b>
<b>Central Charters (Discovery)</b>	<b>Seldovia Village Tribe</b>
<b>Crab Pot</b>	<b>Smokey Bay Air</b>
<b>Fantasy North Charter</b>	<b>Shoreline Gifts</b>
<b>Kayak' Atak</b>	<b>Swan House</b>
<b>Harbors Edge B&amp;B</b>	<b>Sweet 'N' Clean</b>
<b>Herring Bay Mercantile</b>	<b>Tide Pool Cafe</b>
<b>Laid Back In Seldovia</b>	<b>Yesterday's Gifts</b>

Snacks (this does not do justice to what was served!) were eaten at the Multipurpose Room during the guided tour (again a big thank you to all those Chamber members who donated food and prizes! – without the generosity of those who contributed, this event would not have been the success it was). After the day's guided town-viewing and discussions on Seldovia's businesses were complete, a grand prize was awarded and door prizes were given out. The grand prize was a beautiful hand crafted piece of pottery by Liz Oliveria. The grand prize was determined by the best poker hand obtained from cards given out at different spots along the town tour. The winning hand was an Ace high flush and the winner was Linda Broadhead, Director of the Homer Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center!





Lyni Inglima Borland said "Just wanted you to know that I enjoyed the trip so much. It was fun, informative, very well organized and a very enjoyable day in beautiful Seldovia. The food was wonderful also!!! Boran and raised there, it will always be a special place to me and I will continue to send my guests over so they can enjoy its beauty too. Thanks again.



Linda Broadhead, Director of the Homer Chamber of Commerce Visitors Center won the FAM Trip grand prize .

If the purpose of the FAM Trip was to encourage surrounding businesses to visit Seldovia in order to promote Seldovia businesses, it seems this objective was accomplished in a very big way. Everyone who participated had a wonderful time and many said they would be back and recommending Seldovia to others. The Chamber wanted to make the occasion a "fun for everyone" type of event and it appears that this is just what happened.

June Engstrom, of Junee's B&B, made the following remarks about her visit:

"Before I close up all the lovely gifts you gave me for the trip to Seldovia, I wanted to thank you. It was a perfect day for busy people from across the bay. The trip on the boat was just grand, too. I, for one, will bring my friends over to see you. Not only that but I'm sure some of my B&B guest will be coming, too."

## **Seldovia Profile: Wheeler's open Crabpot Cafe**

Each morning at ten a.m., fresh, hot bread comes out of Chris and Tata Wheeler's ovens. Two types of bread - white and wheat - are then stacked on trays and allowed to cool. Moments later the doors of the Crabpot Cafe & Gallery are opened, and the day's first customers walk in.



Although the cafe is a new eating option in Seldovia this year, selling sandwiches at the Crabpot isn't new for the Wheelers. They first opened the deli in 2000, but then closed for a few years after their daughter, Alliah, was born. Early this summer they decided to open again, with a few additions.

They've added artwork, for example. The restaurant section of the building now houses sixty original oil paintings - all done by Chris Wheeler (with the exception of four paintings by Tata). Chris started painting while he was in high school in Las Vegas. An art teacher at the school introduced him to oil painting and he's been making art ever since. Visitors to the Crabpot can stroll the gallery and view the paintings, even if they don't stay for lunch.

Last year, a pool table was purchased and added to the premises. The Wheeler's also bought a new "fixing bar," so customers can make their own sandwiches, if they wish.

There are eight types of cold deli sandwiches to choose from at the Crabpot Cafe, including turkey, pastrami, roast beef, and ham. Half-sandwiches start at \$5.25. Whole-sandwiches run around \$8.50. There are also hot lunch specials - like the French dip or the barbeque pork sandwich - and bowls of clam chowder. Customers always have their choice of white or wheat bread, and they can add any extra fixings to their sandwiches.

Two of the cooks, Adrienne Cameron and Samantha Herndon, said that roast beef sandwiches are a top seller.

"And most people want you to put their fixings on for them," Adrienne added.

The Crabpot also sells hand-tossed pizzas on Friday nights from 5:00 - 8:30 p.m. They make all the basic pizzas - like Pepperoni - plus a Hawaiian, Super Combo, and Vegetarian pizza. Prices range from \$8.99 for a small cheese pizza to \$19.99 for a large Super Combo pizza.

Chris Wheeler noted that a new cook, with substantial restaurant experience, will be arriving soon to help manage the cafe.

"We may do more than just sandwiches," Chris said. "We'll get up to speed and then decide what to add [to the menu]."

Chris Wheeler first came to Alaska in 1969. He worked as a crab-fisherman for fifteen years and in that time built the structure that houses the Crabpot grocery store today. The store was initially called "Wheeler's Store." He closed it for awhile in the late 1980's and then reopened it under the "Crabpot" name in 1997.

"We use to sell three times as much groceries back in those days," Chris said.

Tata Wheeler is originally from Mindanao in the Philippines . She came to Seldovia in 1996.

The Crabpot Cafe & Art Gallery is open seven days a week, from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. , with inside and outside seating available.

### News Flash from Wednesday, June 15

## Nicked cable shuts down phones on Main Street



"I did it, I'm sorry, and we'll have it fixed as quickly as possible!" reports Duane Parlow.

"Just another day in Paradise" isn't always a fun day in Seldovia! Duane Parlow, HEA's Manager of Administration and Environmental Compliance, reported Wednesday afternoon that during the course of remediating the contaminated ground at the standby generating plant, a 200 pair ACS phone cable was damaged and phone service was cut to all of Main Street. The line was cut at approximately 3:30pm and the City Manager and ACS were notified shortly thereafter. HEA has issued a repair order to ACS and the repair is supposed to be completed Wednesday evening.

**Update: phone service was restored by 9:30pm Wednesday evening thanks to the major efforts of Duane Parlow (HEA), Kurt Reynertson (City Manager), Dick Wyland (Mayor), ACS , Gerry Willard and Jim Hopkins Construction! Well done folks!**

Work at the HEA site is part of a DEC approved plan to remove contaminated soil, have Kar-A-Van Transfer transport the material in large bags to Anchorage, and thermally clean the soil. The excavation should be completed by



Load'm up for Anchorage!

tomorrow night (Thursday) as well as installation of a waterline to the HEA trailer. Mr. Parlow reported that all problems associated with the standby plant have been resolved except the fuel transfer pump; that work is still in progress. The remaining portion of the perimeter fence will also be replaced with green slatted fence during this work session. Regularly scheduled maintenance by two HEA workers is scheduled for late July-early August and that work does not involve any scheduled outages.

### City Managers Corner

*by Kurt Reynertson*

As many of you have seen, we have undertaken repairs to the decking around the Harbor Master's Building. The old decking was in sore need of replacement and was just an accident waiting to happen. Hugh Smith did the work for us and I believe it has turned out very nice. Trex was used as opposed to wood decking to give it a longer life and easier maintenance. Thanks to Doug Perrin for the landscape work in front of the building. It looks great, Doug!

The City Council, in the last session, introduced an ordinance that will enable the rest of the Harbor Master Building to be refurbished. One of the agenda items during the next meeting of the City Council will be to set a public hearing for the ordinance. I hope to have the public hearing and then to vote on the ordinance July 6th. I hope all of you will come to the public hearing to express your views, either for or against the expenditure of funds for the Harbor Master Building. It is your money we will be spending to renovate the building so you have a right to say how it gets spent.

We have also closed the bidding process for the Harbor Building renovation. Hugh Smith was the only bidder, although all licensed general contractors had an equal opportunity to bid. The work envisioned is: to replace the roof, to replace the bathroom doors and paint the floor, to paint the entire outside and inside of the entire building, to replace the floor, to replace all the windows, to allow for an ADA compliant rest room, to replace the furnace, and to replace the fuel oil tank with an above-the-ground tank.

The Community Roofing Project is nearing completion. I think it is safe to say the contractor, I&A General, has done a good job and has really "gotten after it." It was a much needed re-roofing project and I am sure all of us are happy this work was not ignored.

We have received approval from the EDA to remove – as opposed to repair – the old cannery dock. Repairing would have been cost prohibitive, especially with the remaining funds we had in our grant. There are several federal and state agencies we still have to coordinate with because the scope of work changed, but that process is well underway. Work will not be allowed to start until after September 15th due to Fish & Wildlife restrictions.

Finally, the Small Boat Harbor will be receiving some new fish cleaning tables in the near future. It was our desire to get them in before the summer season was upon us, but due to several factors this was not possible. They should be in and installed before the end of summer.

The harbor survey results are also out and available. We will be using the results as well as other criteria to establish the priorities we would like the engineers to design into the renovation project. The City Council plans to hold a series of workshops to prioritize the needed work. The dates of these workshops will be published and open to the public to attend. I expect these workshops to be held in July. We have to get our priorities (set during the workshops) to the City Engineers so design can continue, the permitting process can begin, and the bidding process can be completed before construction in the harbor this Fall/Winter. We will be under the same timeframe as the cannery dock (Sept 15th – Mar 15th) when working in the water. In discussions with the engineers, it will take approximately four to five months from the time they receive our priorities to the time construction can begin. I would encourage you to attend these workshops to make your feelings known.

I will be writing this column on a bi-weekly basis. My next column will appear on June 30th.

## Police Report

### Bear problems intensify

Black bear encounters have been increasing in the past week in Seldovia. On Monday evening, a local man walking with his daughter and dogs on the Rocky Ridge Trail encountered a sow with a cub as they descended on the south side of the trail. One of the dogs brought the sow running back towards the two people. The man shot at the bear near its shoulder, possibly wounding it, and it descended down a steep ravine. The cub was left in a nearby tree.

Chief of Police, Andy Anderson, noted that hikers in the woods should be "very conscientious and noisy . . . don't take any chances."

A minimum of seven bears have been seen near the dump. Anderson has been using "popper shells" to discourage them from entering the dump area.

A local woman living in the city limits also reported to have hit a bear with a shovel as it tried to gain entry onto her porch. She was not hurt in the incident.

There have also been multiple bear sightings at Outside Beach, including at least two sets of sows with cubs, and a number of aggressive bears seen near homes outside of the city limits.

Anderson noted that the situation is "much worse than last year," but not quite as bad as two years ago.

"Be well aware that we have bear everywhere," Anderson said.

### In other police news:

- There have been multiple reports of salmon being snagged at the slough. Anyone observing such behavior should call Fish & Wildlife in Homer at 235-8573.
- Chief of Police, Andy Anderson, will be on vacation for one month. Keith Baker will be covering for him. Seldovia will also have additional police support for July 4th festivities. State Trooper Travis Bordner will be in town to assist the police force.

be used or reproduced, in whole or in part, in any form or manner without the express written permission of Seldovia.com, Inc. [Click here for additional details.](#)