



Seldovia Gazette

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Friday, July 1, 2005

Just another day in paradise

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Special July 4, 2005 Insert
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Top Stories

July 4 Seldovia Style - Come join the fun!

Chamber of Commerce announces details by Mary Glover

A few days from now Seldovia will do its annual metamorphosis. It will change from a few people meandering through the quiet streets to a city filled with people from all walks of life. Seldovia has been known to have as many as 2,000 visitors for the July 4th celebration. Unlike so many places in the United States where the big event is only the fireworks, Seldovia has no fireworks as the summer solstice has just happened and fireworks would probably happen about 2:00 AM! Much too late (or early) for most folks! The big day planned is becoming a tradition with our city. It is a grand day! The objective is for people to have good old fashion fun. If you are not one of the event leaders and if you do not have to work in one of the local stores, you can count on a day of entertainment and enjoyment. For me, Seldovia has the best 4th of July that I have ever experienced at any given place in my life. If you want to participate in the sport games, the spectator games or just plain people watch, it is such fun! We have events planned all day. The only problem seems to be exhaustion at the end of the day! Seldovia usually has a sell-out of all the lodging facilities and this year the M/V Tustumena will be in port to help alleviate this problem. What if ...your Seldovian family wanted to stay on the Tusty overnight! It's an opportunity!

Marketplace

[>> Summer Special <<](#)



2 nights at Seaport Cottages + Round trip on Smokey Bay!
Only \$275. Call for details 907-234-7483

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



Photo courtesy of Dean and Joyce Larson

Repeats & Notices

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In years past, Jerry Willard orchestrated the 4th of July and stories are still told about how the buttons got you into the community pig barbeque feed and how he could auction various items (there's a story here)! Have you heard the one about the last greased poll? It's very interesting to hear the old timers give these recollections. Today, the kids love the active games, the foot races, and the canoe jousting and the kayak races. Those are usually spectator sports for the older ones!



The Seldovia Chamber of Commerce sponsors this celebration. It starts off with a pancake breakfast prepared by the Fire Department personnel and the proceeds go to the local fire department. These pancakes are always a big hit. I'm not going to itemize the day's events or the event leaders because they are listed on the schedule, but you can always find something of interest and fun! Our family town Parade is always so fun! Anyone can come dressed for the prizes and try to win! Afterwards we will have a contest for: Smallest Dog, Largest Dog, Prettiest Dog, Ugliest Dog, Most Patriotic Dog, Look Alike Owner/Dog, Most Creative Dog! Note: All dogs must be on a leash! Our Honored Old Crab chosen this year is legislature lobbyist, Joe Hayes, who has supported Seldovia for many years. Joe Hayes will be auctioned off for a Seldovian lunch in the annual celebrations. In addition, the Chamber is recognizing Sherry Bess for her work with the Homer Animal Shelter. Seldovians have obtained many animals from the Homer Animal Shelter and appreciate her efforts. We will also be having a free concert downtown in front of the Harbor Master's Building.

The 5K foot race is always a kick and it starts early at 9:00 AM. The Top of the World Chorus (20 ladies) will be singing and the Highlanders (bagpipe and drum group) will be coming from Anchorage. In addition, we welcome back the Chiles Family Celtic Dancers and a new person to Seldovia, Paul Gerardi, folk singer. The concert is scheduled to take one hour. Then the games begin! Games for all ages and prizes. The Rubber Duckie race gets most of the people in Seldovia with a vested interest on the bridge! Remember to **BUY YOUR RUBBER DUCKIE TICKET EARLY**. We always sell out of tickets. Tickets are at the local businesses around town. And, if you love to take pictures, this is your day – pictures of the family, the friends, the events and always, it is just another day in paradise! If you can't join us, just tune in to www.seldovia.com and watch the live cam, which will be pointed at the parade and a few of the events during the day. There will be a new picture every 30 seconds.



PDF files require a special "Reader" in order to view pdf files. Click the Adobe button above to get a **FREE pdf reader!**

Plan to take home some sort of souvenir of the day: the local stores will be open; the craft booths will be open and the Chamber of Commerce is selling buttons, shirts, hats, ties, and cookbooks.

It takes many hands and much effort to prepare for a day like this, and we Seldovians and visitors alike have such a good time. The food is good too! The smiles are there and, we once again remember the true calling of the July 4th celebration – let freedom ring in our great United States of America!

[Click here for details and schedules on this year's July 4](#)

Local man kills bear in defense of dog

Fish & Game asks residents to use "proactive" measures to control city bear problem

by Damara Burnett

Josh Patrick was met with a surprise late on the evening of June 23rd. He stepped outside of his home at Mile 4.5 on Jakalof Bay Road and witnessed a 225-lb black bear chasing his small dog. He reached for his gun and shot the bear through the mouth, killing it instantly.

"My adrenaline was flowing," Patrick said, "it happened so quick. A couple more seconds and it would have been a dead dog."

According to Patrick, the bear had been causing problems around his residence for the past few weeks. Initially it knocked over a barbeque grill, ate part of a plastic fish tote, and stuck its head through the doggy door. When Patrick came home from work on Thursday evening, Marcia Patrick, his wife, told him the bear had been on the porch that afternoon, trying to get into a garbage tote.

That evening, around 10:30 p.m., Patrick's three dogs began barking. He went outside to investigate and saw a 2-3 year old male black bear chasing his small dog and "waving its head back and forth, trying to get a bite."

After killing the boar, Patrick salvaged its meat.

"The liver was good," he said, "but the hide wasn't worth saving."

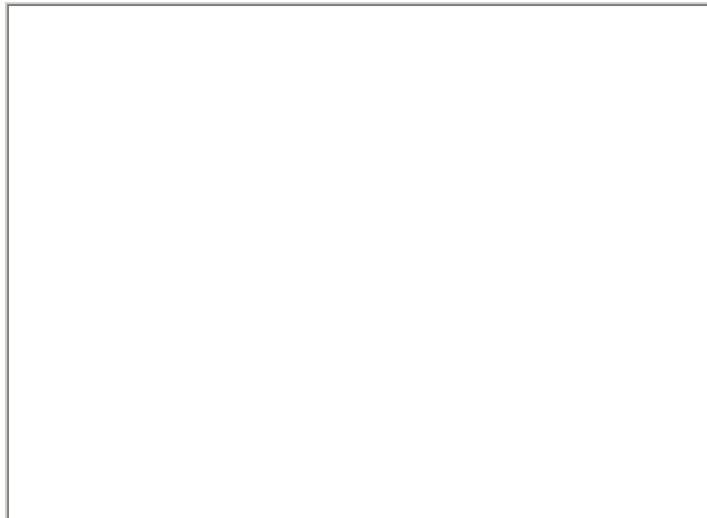




Photo courtesy of Darlene Crawford

On Monday, June 27th, Chief of Police Andy Anderson and Deputy Keith Baker tagged the bear as required by Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) hunting regulations. Patrick officially put the bear kill on his 2005 hunting permit. He hauled the remains of the bear to the dump.

Deputy Baker noted that steps have been taken for the City of Seldovia to receive a bear trap from the ADF&G. The trap would serve to capture nuisance bears in the city.

Jeff Selinger, the Kenai Area Wildlife Biologist for the ADF&G, said in an interview Wednesday that only Fish & Game personnel, or someone permitted by the ADF&G, can live-trap black bears. He also said that a trapped bear would not be relocated, but rather "dispatched," skinned, and sealed for shipping over to the ADF&G headquarters.

"They would not be transported," Selinger said. "That's not part of this program at all . . . our experience has shown - and it's well-documented - that [habituated] bears come right back to the area. [A bear trap] would be for permanent removal."

He also noted that an agreement - one with many stipulations - must first be signed before a permit for a trap can be issued. One of those stipulations is that the community first takes steps to rectify any factors that may be attracting the bears in to town.

"We're pressing for people to be pro-active," Selinger said. "Make an effort to bring garbage inside, take bird feeders down, minimize the attractants. We don't expect people to live in a fortress, but we do require some pro-active measures to be taken."



Larry Lewis, a Wildlife Technician for the ADF&G, noted that residents must secure any objects that look, taste, or smell like food. Garbage and pet food are two common attractants for bears. Both should be stored indoors in secure receptacles.

"Until you can take it to the dump, keep it locked up," Lewis said. "It's a safety issue. We have to take the responsibility as people."

According to state regulations, the fine for negligent feeding of game is \$110 and enforceable by Alaska State Troopers or the ADF&G.

P&Z grants SNA building permit *by Damara Burnett*

Mainstreet Market to receive renovation

Over the next few weeks, Seldovia residents will watch as another new construction project takes shape in town. The Seldovia Native Association has applied for - and received - a building permit to renovate the Mainstreet Market & Seldovia Bayview Suites building. The Planning and Zoning Commission granted the SNA permit request on Monday, June 27th.

Renovations will include new vinyl siding and shakes on the front of the building, a new stairwell and landing on the south side of the building, a new shed roof on the north side of the building, and a 32-foot deck off the back of the building. The deck will house a hot tub for hotel patrons to use; a new stairway will connect the deck to the upper level of the hotel.

According to Darlene Crawford, Chief Financial Officer of Seldovia Native Association, the SNA Board decided to allocate money for the "beautification project" at a recent board meeting. The estimated cost of the renovations is \$150,000. Mike Hidecker has been hired to complete the construction work.

The Planning & Zoning Commission also granted a request from the Seldovia Bible Chapel to build a 20 x 24 foot garage / storage shed on their Illiamna Street lot.



City releases water quality results *by Damara Burnett*

Report says Seldovians drink safe water

The City of Seldovia released its 2004 Consumer Confidence Report regarding water quality in the city. The report states that the drinking water "is safe and exceeds the applicable Federal and State DEC requirements."

The report noted that because the city water source – which is located at the water reservoir to the east of the airport - is in a pristine, protected area, filtration of the water is not necessary. The avoidance of filtration is deemed acceptable by EPA requirements for surface water treatment.

Contaminants detected in the 2004 water survey include 150 parts per million of copper, a likely result of corroded household plumbing, and 1.4 milligrams per liter of nitrate - an effect of natural deposit erosion. There were also 32.3 parts per billion (ppb) of trihalomethanes and 28.5 ppb of haloacetic acid detected in the water; both of these contaminants are chlorination by-products. The highest amount of turbidity detected – a likely result of soil runoff - was .09%. No lead was found in the water samples and none of the contaminants detected exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level allowed by Federal and State laws.

The report said that most "drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It is important to remember that the presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk."

[Click here for the complete 2004 Consumer Confidence Report \(PDF format\)](#)

What goes on at the Boys and Girls Club after school lets out? *PhotoStory by Paul Chissus*

[Click here to view the photos \(PDF format, Acrobat Reader required\)](#)

City Managers Corner

by Kurt Reynertson

There are three important issues coming in the near future that you should put on your calendar. The first one is the July 6th City Council meeting where the public will have a chance to comment on the Harbor Master Building. Whether you are "for" or "against" spending the money to renovate the building, please come to the July 6th meeting to make your views known. As most of you know, I am supporting the renovation, but it is a council decision and they need to know how the community feels. The meeting will be at 7:30 PM, Wednesday, July 6th, in the Multi-purpose Building.

The second meeting I hope you will participate in is a workshop concerning the Small Boat Harbor renovation we will be holding. This workshop will be held on July 7th at 7 PM in the Multi-purpose Building. We will be using the results of the

survey that was distributed, compiled and analyzed as one of the criteria for establishing priorities; but again, it is your harbor and hopefully you can come and make your desires known to the city council. This will be the first in a possible series of workshops that we will try to conclude in the month of July.

The third important community feedback session coming in the near future is the meeting we will be having on July 13th concerning the airport and the environmental assessment that was accomplished. The DOT will be in town that evening to hold public hearings on the environmental assessment that could potentially affect the Seldovia Airport. Please come and listen, ask questions and participate as much as you like. The meeting will be at 7 PM in the Multi-purpose Building.

As some of you know we have had quite a time with our local bear population this year. I want to bring you up to speed on what we have been doing to address the problem. Andy Anderson has been in contact with the Fish & Game folks asking for help in the form of them supplying us with some bear traps. In the past, we have not gotten too far on these requests but it seems that Andy is having a better time of it this year. We still do not know if we will be able to get the traps, but we are receiving a better audience from Fish & Game. Additionally, we have purchased new shot gun shells filled with rock salt. Our Deputy, Keith Baker, has had the occasion to use these shells very recently with some very good results. He has plugged a couple of bears and they have taken off running, not looking back. Please be aware of the bear situation, and take all precautions necessary such as properly disposing of any fish cleanings, keeping garbage secured, and taking garbage to the dump often, etc. Your help is appreciated.

As I reported previously, 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 that we have in our grant. There were several federal and state agencies that we had to coordinate with because the scope of work changed, but we have coordinated everything now and the last step is having the US Army Corps of Engineers review the entire file. This will take a couple of weeks, but this is not stopping us from proceeding. We will be advertising the procurement of the work in a couple of weeks and will hopefully start the work on or near Sept 15th.

Finally, the 4th of July is upon us. The Chamber of Commerce once again "out did" themselves putting the affair together. Thanks to all Chamber members and especially to Mary Glover. I hope you have a fun day and a safe day.

Police Report

- Deputy Keith Baker noted that there have been fewer "bear calls" in Seldovia this week. He attributes the decrease in problematic bear activity to more residents hauling their garbage indoors. He also mentioned that the rock salt used by the police will "hopefully persuade [bears] to stay away permanently." Baker said that on Friday, June 24th, he "popped" one black bear near Susan Lake with rock salt. On Saturday afternoon, another bear near the corner of Alder Street and Lipke Lane was also shot with rock salt.
- The Seldovia Slough is now open to snagging. Up to two salmon can be snagged per day by both Alaska residents and non-residents, so long as individuals have a current fishing license. Snagging became legal on Friday, June 24th, and continues to be legal until December 31st, according to Nicole Szarzi of the Alaska Department of Fish & Game in Homer.
- The police are asking for people to refrain from long-term parking in the parking lots adjacent to the small boat harbor. Parking will not be allowed in

the lots during the 4th of July festivities on Monday.

Repeat Stories and Notices

DOT Releases Seldovia Airport Master Plan Environmental Assessment - Project 54748

(repeat story)

by Mark Mayo, Project Manager, DOT&PF

The Alaska DOT and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) has completed, and the Federal Aviation Administration has approved for public distribution, a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for several near-term (0-5 year) improvements at the Seldovia Airport. The proposed improvements would expand Runway 16-34 Safety Area, construct snow removal equipment building and utilities, pave Runway 16-34, pave Alpha apron, remove selected airspace penetrations, and reconstruct the primary airport access road.

A copy of the draft EA is available on the web at:

http://dot.alaska.gov/stwdav/Seldovia_Airport_EA.shtml

Please provide your comments by August 1, 2005 to the following address:

Mark Mayo, Project Manager, AK DOT&PF, PO Box 196900

Anchorage, AK 99519-6900 Fax: 907-269-0521

email: mark_mayo@dot.state.ak.us

[Official Public Hearing Announcement - PDF format](#)

A public hearing for the draft EA will be held in Seldovia on July 13 at 7:00pm in the Community Building Multipurpose Room at 260 Seldovia Street. If you have any questions about the project, please contact Mary Mayo at 907-269-0519 or Terri Mitchel of Hattenburg, Dilley & Linnell, at 907-564-2120.

NOAA Representatives to Visit Seldovia and the Kasitsna Bay Lab *(repeat story)*

Letter from Gordon Thayer

Dr. Jean Snider, Deputy of the NOAA, National Ocean Service's (NOS) National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) in Silver Spring, Maryland; Dr. David Johnson, Director of the NCCOS Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research in Beaufort, NC; Adm. (ret) Nick Prah from NCCOS; and Dr. Gordon Thayer, a contractor with NOAA residing in Homer, will visit Seldovia on July 12th and 13th. NCCOS is responsible for the Kasitsna Bay Laboratory and has been overseeing the redevelopment of the Laboratory that has been going on the past several years. These visitors will talk about the development program progress at the Laboratory, future science directions at the Laboratory, and increasing communications with the communities of Seldovia and Homer. Join us at 7:00 pm in the Seldovia Multipurpose Room on July 12th, 2005.

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