



Seldovia Gazette

Serving Seldovia, Alaska and Kachemak Bay southeast

Seldovia, AK

46 °F / 8 °C

Clear

at 6:53 AM



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Thursday, July 21, 2005

Just another day in paradise

Vol. 1, No. 7, July 21, 2005

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2 Cents Worth

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Seldovia Memorial Service



Lynnette Elaine White

Chugiak, Alaska resident Lynnette Elaine White, 42, died July 13, 2005 at home during the night.

Lynnette was born Feb 3, 1963.

Parents are Gerald W. and Alberta G. Willard.

Lynnette was a very loving and devoted mother who dedicated her life to her family. Hobbies included stained glass art, gardening, planting and caring for flowers, and she had a love for garage sales. She collected fancy porcelain hand painted art.

She is survived by her children Amos Simon White, Gregory Vance Parrish, Ginger Elaine Moffet, and Cheyanne Michelle Willard.

She will be dearly missed by her family and all her many friends.

A graveside service will be held in Seldovia, Alaska July 27, 2005 at 2:00 pm.

Letters of condolence for the family may be sent to Alberta Willard P.O. Box 158 Seldovia, AK 99663.

She was employed over the years as a hairdresser, and worked in Auto Glass companies in Anchorage and Eagle River and resided in Alaska from 1963 until her death.

Surviving brothers and sister: Kenneth W. Willard (Juneau, AK), Matthew A. Willard (Tacoma, WA), Michael P. Willard (Queensbury, NY) and Kathryn M. Willard (Anchorage, AK).

Marketplace

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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



The Seldovia Gazette Community Calendar is UP and RUNNING!

This Calendar will be updated daily with changes! Click the "Calendar" tab on the menu bar above.

School

▶ **Former graduate accepts SBE teaching position (repeat)**

Notices

▶ **Amended FY05 Seldovia City Budget 7-8-2005 (pdf)**

▶ **Boys and Girls Club Newsletter April-May**

▶ **Boys and Girls Club July 2005 Calendar**

▶ **Harbor Survey Priority Results (pdf)**

Corrections

▶ **None this week. . . that's good!**



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

News Flash



The Fox Creek forest fire (Tustumena Lake area) is still active, cause was lightning. As of 9:00 am Thursday, July 21: 31,100 acres, 151 personnel, 2-CL215 water scooping aircraft, 3 helicopters. Fire is still about 4 miles from the nearest homes. Pilots please check for TFR restrictions.

[Photos and additional info, click here](#)

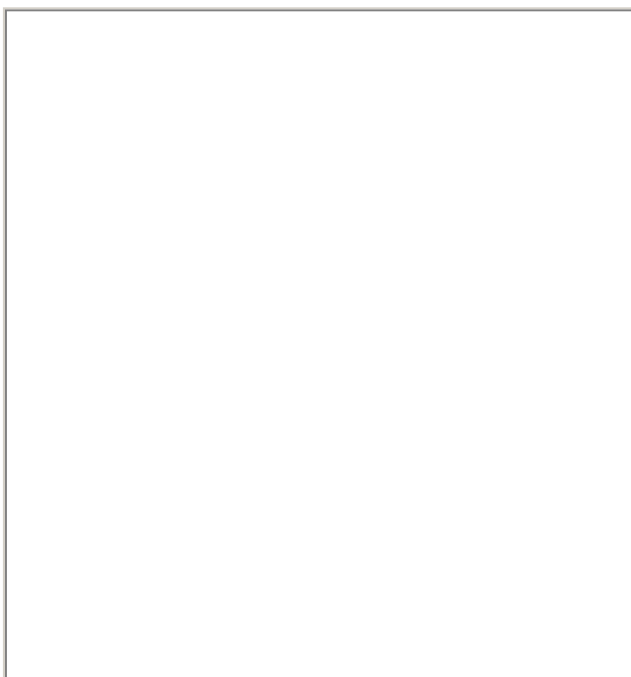
Top Stories

Locals raise \$1,500 for injured snowboarder

by Damara Burnett

Mickelson closer to receiving hand pedaled bike

Last Saturday night at the Linwood Bar two Seldovians, Matthew Brown and Allison Miller, passed around a donation jar for their childhood friend, Daewon Mickelson. By the end of the night, nearly \$850 was raised for Daewon, who was seriously injured in a snowboarding accident in February. The following day, Brown and Miller went door-to-door in Seldovia, asking residents for funds to support Daewon's efforts to purchase a hand-pedaled bike and regain some of the physical agility he lost following the accident. Sunday evening, Rita Brown delivered a total of over \$1,500 to Vivian and John Mickelson in support of their son's recovery efforts.





Left to right: John Mickelson, Vivian Rojas, Daewon Mickelson, and Sarah Eatman

Vivian said she is amazed at the out-pouring of love and support they have received from the community since the accident. She recalled the saying "It takes a village to raise a child." and noted how Seldovians really pull together when someone is in need.

"It just makes us feel so good that Daewon has such a huge extended family here," Vivian said. "It's a sense of love that is really incredible."

Daewon, 23, was born in Homer and raised in Seldovia. He graduated from Susan B. English School in 2000. Shortly thereafter, he moved to Durango, Colorado, where he pursued an Athletic Training degree. On February 8th, 2005, he dislocated his spine in a snowboarding accident and has been unable to walk since then.

The fracture, which is called a T-12 injury, left only patchy feeling in three of Daewon's toes. Vivian noted the long recovery process for spinal cord injuries and the importance of staying fit. She said people with T-12 injuries often take at least 2-6 years to walk again. Daewon currently goes to physical therapy four times a week and hopes to attend Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, as an outpatient. According to Vivian, the university has an excellent rehabilitation center and is where Christopher Reeves "rewrote the book on spinal cord injuries."

Despite the severity of Daewon's injury, Vivian feels there are many positives working in his favor. He was in and out of surgery within six hours following the accident. He is young and fit. He has a positive attitude and hard work ethic. And, he has a family - and community - that loves and supports him.

The donations Brown and Miller collected went directly to purchase the off-road, hand-pedaled bike for Daewon. The bike, made by ONE OFF Titanium, costs \$5,000.

"There is still \$3,500 yet to be raised," Allison Miller noted. "It would be so awesome if Seldovia could get that for him."

Rita Brown continues to solicit donations for Daewon. Daewon's friends in Colorado are also organizing a benefit auction for him in late August. Vivian noted that anyone wishing to donate items for the auction may do so.

"He appreciates it so much," Vivian said. "We can't thank people enough."

Burn box gets residents sorting garbage

by Damara Burnett

Rocky Ridge Landfill users now have two choices when they go to the dump on Mondays, Wednesdays, or Saturdays. They can put their garbage directly into the landfill or they can sort their refuse into burnable, non-burnable and recyclable categories. For burnable items - like cardboard, newspaper and food scraps - that means being placed in a "burn box" for later combustion.



The burn box, which was purchased by the Kenai Peninsula Borough Solid Waste Department (KPBSWD) via a Denali Commission grant, has been in use at the landfill since mid June. It is intended to reduce the volume of waste buried at the landfill while minimizing the attractants for wildlife to scavenge for food at the dump. Laney Hughes, a spokesperson for the KPBSWD, said burning refuse reduces the amount of waste going into the landfill by more than 45%. But for some Seldovia residents, especially those who live near the dump, concern over air pollution trumps any potential reduction in waste at the landfill.

"I think it's impossible, no matter how hard people try, to police what's going into the burn box," said Lisa Stanish, Seldovia resident. She noted concern over dioxins, which are produced by black smoke, and the ultimate effect air

pollution has on people and the environment. "Plastics are going to get in [the burn box]," Stanish said, "and lead - they put lead in plastic to stiffen it - is bad."

Hughes agreed any refuse that burns black smoke, like plastic, is harmful and should not be placed in the burn box. She said people must take responsibility for what they put into the unit, but added that landfill attendants have been trying to educate residents about what refuse is and is not acceptable for burning. She also mentioned items intended for the burn box should, preferably, not be placed in plastic bags.



According to Connie Geagel, a Rocky Ridge Landfill attendant, items disposed of in the burn box are ignited on a daily basis, so long as the wind is blowing in the right direction.

"If it's blowing towards [Dave] Chartier's place, then we don't burn," Geagel said. She also noted that as people see others sorting garbage and using the recycling bins, they seem more likely to start sorting and recycling, too.

Hughes noted that, unlike at previous Seldovia landfills, placing waste into the burn box is optional for landfill users. "If people don't want to use it, they don't have to," she said.

The Rocky Ridge Landfill is open Monday and Wednesday from 1 p.m. - 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Salmonberry season in full swing *by Damara Burnett*

If you haven't noticed the salmonberries bursting from bushes lately, you haven't been paying attention. They are everywhere. And to the joy of berry

pickers, pie eaters, jam makers, and hungry stomachs everywhere, it promises to be a good season for the red and yellow berries.



On Tuesday, July 19th, the SVT Tribal Cache officially put the call out for salmonberry pickers to start filling their buckets. The price paid for cleaned salmonberries and blueberries is currently \$2 per pound. High bush cranberries go for \$2.25 per lb; black currants and watermelon berries are bought at \$2.50 per lb. Cleaned berries should be delivered to the front door of the Alaska Tribal Cache between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday - Friday.

For bakers seeking a new way to use the plump, juicy berries, try this recipe from Seldovian cook Lynn Corwin (as given to her by Karen Efta):

Salmonberry Cream Pie

- 1 graham-cracker pie crust
- 1 cup heavy whipping cream, cold
- 1 heaping tablespoon powdered sugar
- 1 can condensed milk
- 3 cups fresh salmonberries
- 1/4 cup lemon juice

First, make your favorite graham-cracker pie crust. Then, in a large bowl, whip the cream until it is stiff; add the powdered sugar and condensed milk and continue to whip. Stir in the lemon juice. Add the salmonberries, making sure no water is added to the mixture. Pour the filling onto the crust and place in the refrigerator to set.

Clarification of city revenue and expenses

In order to help clarify the continuing string of questions being asked about Seldovia's finances in relation to Union demands, the City Office has compiled the following summary and answers to frequently asked questions:

Situation: Increases in cost as compared to City budgeted amount (offered to the Union) versus Union demands:

Additional increase in salaries: \$ 2,522.25

Additional health insurance premium increase: \$21,892.00
Total additional increase between what City offered and Union demanded:
\$24,414.25

City Action Taken: Reduction of hours and layoffs are cost reductions necessitated by Union demands:

Salary reductions: \$19,877.26
Health Insurance savings: \$ 4,904.00
Total Reduction in Expenses: **\$24,781.26**

General Notes and Facts:

1. Locally Generated Tax and State Revenue is only \$1,216 more in FY06 than FY99
2. The State has done away with the revenue sharing program accounting for a loss of \$30,000 to \$40,000 per year
3. Fuel and electricity costs have risen substantially and dramatically
4. Health insurance costs per employee/per month was \$214.99 in 1997, it is now \$613.09 equaling an 185% increase for the period
5. Budgeted City Manager Wages are \$3,038.40 less in FY06 than in FY05
6. All City Employees are affected by the reductions (Union and non-union)
7. The originally budgeted revenue for FY05 was \$378,965. The budgeted revenue for FY06 is expected to be \$362,525 due to decreased tax and State revenue primarily. This reduced amount of \$16,440 represents an approximate 4.5% reduction in revenue. This is coupled with rising operational expenses and the absolute need to invest (increase spending) in our infrastructure.
8. If the contract had been left "untouched" the City would have experienced a \$12,300 raise in operating expenses in times of declining revenue in FY06. The City had to act to get rapidly escalating operating expenses under control. [The \$12,300 budget deficit noted above is based on a year when the Union contract is not changing. As a result of the Union rejecting the City contract offer this year, the deficit has skyrocketed to \$24,414.25 and immediate action was required in order to get operating expenses under control.]

Have you seen "The Terminal"? *by Tom Glover*

This 2004 movie, starring Tom Hanks, is about a man who becomes a resident of a New York airport terminal when a war breaks out and erases his country from the map, thereby voiding his passport.

Believe it or not, the movie is loosely based upon the true life experience of Merhan Karimi Nasser, a man without country, trapped by his lack of papers in Charles De Gaulle Airport in Paris, France, since 26 August 1988! As of the summer of 2004, he still lives in the airport.

A full article on this interesting, real life story is available at the following

address:

<http://www.snopes.com/travel/airline/airport.htm>

Flags at half-mast for Don Gilman *KPBSD Memo*

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Don Gilman, former KPBSD principal, KPB mayor (1975-80 and 1987-96), and Alaska state senator (1980-84). He was 71. He leaves behind his beloved wife Nikki and sons Blaine and Brad. Daughter-in-law Margaret Gilman is the treasurer of the KPBSD Board of Education.

Don was the 1968-69 Susan B. English Elementary/High School principal in Seldovia and area director for what became AVTEC in Seward during the 1969-70 school year. He resigned from the District that year to become assistant director of AVTEC where he remained until 1975.

Don Gilman was known as a tireless public servant and an advocate for the people of the Kenai Peninsula Borough. Among his many accomplishments, he helped to establish the Boys and Girls Club on the Kenai Peninsula and was a strong supporter of the Caring for the Kenai contest.

Services will be held on Monday, July 25th, 4:00 PM at Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Church in Kenai. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that a contribution be made to the Boys and Girls Club of the Kenai Peninsula, 705 Frontage Road, Ste B, Kenai AK 99611. Please note on the contribution "In Memory of Don Gilman."

Expressions of sympathy should be sent to the following address:

Gilman Family
216 Susieanna Lane
Kenai AK 99611

Tidbits . . .

Fireweed blossoms are working their way to the top of the stalk. . . Fall is getting closer!

**City Manager's Corner***by Kurt Reynertson*

Many of you may have seen a surveyor working around town. He is doing some work for the Denali Commission concerning the Seldovia Fuel and Lube Tank Farm and Piping System project. Currently the Commission has funded design money, but hopefully they will be funding construction money in the near future. The construction (assuming that it is appropriated) will be for a new fuel tank farm and fuel distribution system operated by Seldovia Fuel & Lube. All the final arrangements and legalities have yet to be worked out, but are well on their way. Under the current plan, the City will obtain ownership of the tanks and fuel dispensing system while Seldovia Fuel and Lube will continue to own the land on which the tank are set. The current tank farm and distribution system is in excess of 60 years old which is at least two decades past the engineered life. This is another project that Seldovia desperately needs.

In the near future the City will be locking out all city water faucets with the exception of one by the boat cleaning pad. This water spigot will eventually have a coin operated unit on it in order for people outside the city water distribution system to fill tanks. In the past there was a \$150.00 fee that folks could pay on a yearly basis to enable them to "tank-up" on city water. This sundry fee has been abolished as the City will be moving to a "demand-based"

payment system. The “locked-out” water spigots will have the ability to be unlocked with city assistance.

Some of you may have heard that I (as City Manager) am out to shut down the library. This is false. It is a prime example of people understanding half-truths and then passing on something even less than that. There is a situation with the multi-purpose building (Community Building) that involves ADA access. As most of you know the building is not easily accessible now by handicapped people. This is not a good situation or even a right situation. The City is NOT ignoring this fault. However we are trying to work within our ability to solve the situation, mainly from a financial standpoint. Closing the library because handicapped people cannot access it is the absolute LAST option, an option that no one wants to implement (especially me). We are actively seeking alternative solutions that would benefit everyone and make the situation right for everyone.

Police Report

No report available this week

Repeats & Notices

[Amended FY05 Seldovia City Budget 7-8-2005 \(pdf\)](#)

[Boys and Girls Club Newsletter April-May](#)

[Harbor Survey Priority Results \(pdf\)](#)

