



# Seldovia Gazette

Serving Seldovia, Alaska and Kachemak Bay southeast

Seldovia, AK  
60 °F / 16 °C  
Mostly Cloudy  
at 5:53 PM



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Thursday, Aug. 4, 2005

Just another day in paradise

Vol. 1, No. 9, August 4, 2005

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## Top Stories

### Community mourns student deaths

by *Damara Burnett*

Two separate tragedies hit Seldovia hard this week. In the first incident, Andrew Jones, age 14, died at the home of his grandparents, Sharon and Darwin Lewis, early on the morning of Sunday, July 31st, of unknown causes. Andrew was the son of Robbie Jones. He attended Susan B. English School last year while living with his grandparents.

The following day, Brooke Haynes, age 13, was killed in an auto accident outside of Boise, Idaho, while traveling with her father, sister and brother. Brooke was raised in Seldovia and attended Susan B. English School her entire life. She would have entered the eighth grade this year.



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Numerous events were organized around town to help those affected by the deaths. On Tuesday afternoon, friends of the deceased met at the Slough Bridge to toss roses and wildflowers into the water during the out-going tide. On Wednesday, support services were made available all afternoon at the Multi-Purpose Building to any one in need.

## 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

**School**

▶ Former graduate accepts SBE teaching position (repeat)

**Notices**

▶ **NEW!** Comprehensive Plan Public Review Draft August 3, 2005 (pdf)

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

▶ **NEW!** Boys and Girls Club August 2005 Calendar

▶ Harbor Survey Priority Results (pdf)

**Corrections**

▶ One this week . . . Misspelled Otterbahn!



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**Johanna Brooke Haynes**

July 18, 1992 - August 1, 2005

The Haynes family will be returning to Seldovia this weekend. Memorial services for Brooke Haynes will be held next week, date and time to be announced. She will be buried in the Seldovia Cemetery. Condolences to the family of Brooke Haynes can be sent to:

**Ronda, Paul, Emily & Harold Haynes**  
**P.O. Box 146, Seldovia, Alaska 99663**

**Andrew Jones**

April 9, 1991 - July 31, 2005



Funeral service for Andrew Jones will be at the Montrose Funeral Home in Montrose, Colorado, on August 6th at 3:00 p.m. His ashes will be buried on top of his grandmother's grave at the family plot at Grandview Cemetery in Colorado. Condolences to the family of Andrew Jones can be sent to:

**Sharon & Darwin Lewis**  
**P.O. Box 20, Seldovia, Alaska 99663**  
**(The family can be reached at (970) 240-4332 if necessary)**

*Our deepest sympathies are with the families and friends of these two children.*

*They will be missed . . . but not forgotten*

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## **P&Z pushes Comprehensive Plan forward**

*by Damara Burnett*

On Monday, August 1st, the Planning & Zoning Commission officially adopted the Comprehensive Plan for the City of Seldovia. Two days later, Ordinance 06-01 was unanimously approved for introduction by the City Council. The plan, which aims to provide a framework to "articulate the vision for how Seldovia and its residents manage change," can be amended "from time to time" according to the ordinance.

The issue of how and when the Comprehensive Plan should be revised initially came up at the P&Z meeting Monday night. During the public comment portion of that meeting, Savannah Lewis articulated concerns over issues not identified in the current plan. She noted the absence of adequate parking on Mainstreet, ADA-accessibility concerns, and the effects an aging community has on the tax base, as just a few of her concerns not addressed in the plan.

"I'm simply expressing a little bit of disappointment on my part that a number of issues that face this community are not addressed by something that is suppose to provide guidance to the City Council as they do their work for the next twenty years," Lewis said.

Mark Massion and Bobbi Sweatt, both of whom worked extensively on the Comprehensive Plan, noted that public meetings designed to gather public input regarding the plan received very little attendance over the years.

"While I appreciate Ms. Lewis' comments, she would have been better served if she stated them during the public comment time rather than waiting until the end," Massion said. He noted that Lewis could type a few additions and insert them into the document, if she wished.

"Savannah brought up some good points," added P&Z member Everett Boscacci, "but I disagree with going back at the eleventh hour and inserting a bunch of things." He noted that the planning committee can always revisit the document and update it later, but said that the current plan needed to be approved so it could be adopted by the City Council.

Paulie Carluccio, Chair for the P&Z, agreed. "It's a living document," she said. "We can look at it and have the luxury of studying it and saying 'what did we miss, what can we add to it?' It can be changed as it needs to be changed."

A motion to approve and send the Comprehensive Plan to the City Council was unanimously passed by the Planning & Zoning Commission. The City Council then unanimously approved the introduction of Ordinance 06-01 and established a public hearing for the Comprehensive Plan for August 10th. A copy of the revised 2006 Seldovia Comprehensive Plan is available at:

► [Download: Comprehensive Plan Public Review Draft \(color\)](#)  
Updated August 3, 2005 - (PDF file, 1 megabyte)

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## **Library interior to be modified** *by Damara Burnett*

Shirley Giles, Seldovia Public Library Director and President of the Library Board, said late last week that actions are being taken to make the interior of the library accessible to all patrons. Giles said the lack of accessibility became known earlier this summer when complaints were filed by a Seldovia couple who asserted the Multi-Purpose Building, which houses the library, is not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The Seldovia Public Library, a non-profit agency independent of the City of Seldovia, is a tenant of the city-owned Multi-Purpose Building.

"From the moment we realized the interior of the library wasn't ADA compliant, we decided to make some changes," Giles said. "We want to make the library user-friendly for the entire public."

She mentioned eliminating bulky, infrequently used items from the library - such as certain shelving and tables - and reorganizing other components of the facility to make it easier to move around the public space.

Although the interior of the library can be made accessible with a few minor changes, as stated by Giles, improving the accessibility of the entire Multi-Purpose Building is one that falls into the City's hands and may require substantial funds. The first and second floors of the building are currently not wheelchair accessible and, according to City Manager Kurt Reynertson, the City of Seldovia was contacted by an attorney with the Disability Law Center of Alaska regarding the building's lack of ADA compliance. The second floor of the building currently provides the space for many public events - including elections and public meetings - and is where the library is located.

Reynertson said there are a variety of actions that could be taken to improve the accessibility of the Multi-Purpose Building, including building ramps, modifying restrooms and elevators, or installing new handicapped accessible systems. At the City Council meeting Wednesday night, Reynertson said he received a quote from Alaska Elevator for repairs to the elevator for approximately \$5,400. The quote, Reynertson stated, includes installation of a new fire-rated door, two interlocking gates for the elevator and an operational inspection of the wheelchair lift. He said the item would be on the Council agenda next week and noted that even with approval of the new elevator system, the restrooms would need to be modified and "minor construction" on the upstairs ramp would have to be made.

In regard to the interior of the library, Shirley Giles said "progress is going to be made" within a matter of weeks, but mentioned extra volunteers would be helpful in order to move library furnishings.

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**Tidbits . . .**

For some folks, "sprucing" up the backyard has a totally different meaning . . .



### City Manager's Corner

*by Kurt Reynertson*

I do not feel it necessary to tell everyone how devastating a week this has been for Seldovia in terms of young lives cut so short. These tragic events have affected all of us. My prayers, as I am sure yours, are with both families that lost their loved ones too soon.

The daily or fast ferry feasibility study will be starting next week. The City will be working with SVT and SNA to accomplish the study within the next 18 months. As much as possible I will keep you informed about the progress as we go along.

The Planning and Zoning Commission voted to send the comprehensive plan for Seldovia to City Council and recommended approval. City Council met last night in special session to introduce an ordinance that would bring the plan forward to the public. The Council passed the motion to introduce the ordinance and to establish public hearings on the plan for August 10, 2005. This is a very important document in order for us, as a City, to go forward with our economic development efforts.

A technical representative from HEA will be meeting with me today (Thursday) to review power requirements for our new X-Ray machine for the Seldovia Clinic and to start the design process for the power. For those that do not know, Seldovia was able to purchase a new X-Ray machine (using grant money) for the Clinic. However, the power requirements for the X-Ray machine are 480 volt and three phases. We will have to run a separate power line into the Clinic in order to be able to use the new X-Ray machine. The cost of running special power to the clinic will also be covered by grant money.

The manufacture of the new fish cleaning table is progressing. The cost of the fish table will be covered by the money Seldovia received from the State to improve the small boat harbor.

I am sorry for cutting this column short, but hopefully all will understand.

### Police Report

No report available this week

### Repeats & Notices

- ▶ *Comprehensive Plan Public Review Draft*  
*Updated August 3, 2005 - **NEW!***
- ▶ *Amended FY05 Seldovia City Budget 7-8-2005 (pdf)*
- ▶ *Harbor Survey Priority Results (pdf)*

